The National
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Lydee Cassel, National FFA Horse Proficiency winner, trains high-spirited Thoroughbred racehorses at her home in Hummelstown, Pennsylvania. On the cover, Lydee guides one of her top horses, Gilted Lover, into an exercise pond with her dog, Licorice, leading the way. Cover photo by Andrew Markwart.

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The Bottom Line

You meet a lot of fine people when you work for FFA. One of those exceptional individuals is Walter M. Tolan of the Universal Uniform Company, makers of the FFA jacket, in Van Wert, Ohio.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Tolan walked into the office of company president Jim Thatcher and said in effect, "Jim, I will be 90 years old on Friday and I think it is time for me to retire, so Friday will be my last day at work."

With that, Mr. Tolan brought to an end his career with the company where he had worked for 72 years. Mr. Tolan actually started work at age 13. All but five of those years were with Universal.

Mr. Tolan is best known to FFA for his work as a co-designer of the official FFA jacket. It was back in 1933 when Dr. J. H. Lintner, then the vocational agriculture teacher at Fredericktown, Ohio, came to Universal with an idea for some type of corduroy jacket the chapter band could wear while playing at the National FFA Convention. The jacket they designed, with a few changes,was later adopted as the official dress for FFA members. Thus, Mr. Tolan has been personally associated with the FFA jacket since its inception in the early 1930s. Over the years he has given many FFA jacket orders his personal attention and he attended several National FFA Conventions where he assisted with the Supply Service booth. We wish him well in retirement.

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News In Brief

Weekend Leadership Seminars Offered

Five states will be holding weekend FFA Leadership and Personal Development Seminars starting this fall. The seminars, patterned after the Washington Conference Program (WCP), will consist of one-and-one-half days of intense training in self image, awareness and evaluation and step-by-step procedures in goal setting. The seminars will be conducted by the WCP staff members in cooperation with the Oklahoma, Florida, Iowa, Ohio and California state associations starting in October and running through the end of January.

Madison, New York, FFA Wins First BRIDGE Award

The Madison, New York, FFA Chapter has been selected as winner of the first BRIDGE chapter award for their work with the rural handicapped. The chapter will receive a $200 cash award for their involvement with Heritage Farm, a gardening and recreational facility in Madison.

The chapter's main project was building an elevated garden by stacking tires waist-high along a wooden ramp-way, then filling the tires with soil. This allows wheelchair participants to plant and tend herbs for spaghetti sauce and scented candles which are manufactured on the farm. "Without their help, acceptance from the community could not have been this quick, this warm," said Heritage Farm Directors Richard and Jean Nikiel.

Other BRIDGE news... Price Grisham, a key individual in developing the BRIDGE program, was awarded the Department of Agriculture's Public Service Award for his work with the program. The award was presented by Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng on June 10 in Washington, D.C.

National Computer Seminar

The 1987 National Computers in Agriculture Seminar will be held August 8-12 in Washington, D.C. National finalists will stay at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, where they will demonstrate their projects and attend educational workshops. Participants will also tour some of Washington's high-tech businesses, the national monuments and other historical sites during the seminar.

New Sponsors

The National FFA Foundation welcomes a host of new sponsors who make so many of FFA's award programs possible. New special project sponsors include: Farmers Hybrid Companies, Lamb-Weston and Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, Inc., all co-sponsors of the Ag Ed Network; Kendall Company and Ford New Holland, Inc., sponsors of collegiate and technical scholarships and Leading Edge Products, Inc., contributors of a computer to the National FFA Alumni.

Other contributors and their sponsored projects are, respectively: Elanco Products Company, Public Relations Guide; Nestle-Beich, NVATA Newsletter; Sandoz Crop Protection Corporation, Fiber Crop Proficiency; Prudential Foundation, Wildlife Management Proficiency; Deutz-Allis Corporation, International program for the Council; and Case IH and the Holstein Association, Belt Buckle Program.

Convention Gets Exposure

A Kansas City/FFA Convention Publicity Committee has been formed to generate maximum publicity and exposure for the National FFA Convention. The committee is comprised of public relations and other agribusiness professionals from Kansas City. Andrea Corbin of Bryant, Lahey & Barnes, Inc., and Ed Sullivan of Dean Machinery Company co-chair the committee with the cooperation of Jack Runyon, Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City.

Publicity efforts now being developed include: a media tour for National FFA Officers; better awareness and access for national media to the convention; a live video feed to the National Association of Farm Broadcasters convention; radio, TV and print public service announcements for the Kansas City area and special recognition by Kansas City for FFA's 60th Anniversary Convention.

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Mailbag

Readers Speak Out!!

Your enthusiastic response to the request for suggestions and viewpoints on the FFA Survey in the June-July issue (Page 7) has been very informative. Here are excerpts from some of the comments:

I believe we are better off leaving the name as is and do a better job of educating that group of people that the name change is aimed towards.—Oklahoma.

Vo-ag should be more "high tech" and "science" oriented.—Virginia

I think the FFA should keep striving for excellence in the future of farming because farming technology keeps changing.—Illinois

If any aspect of the association were changed, I believe it would weaken its reputation.—Illinois

I personally do not think this survey is fair because the whole survey is about changing something about vo-ag and FFA.—Virginia

I think vo-ag should be a required class.—Oklahoma

I think vo-ag enrollment requirements should be eliminated to increase membership in FFA.—Washington

My class schedule for the school year has made it impossible for me to take a vo-ag class, but I would like to remain in the FFA. If the vo-ag enrollment requirements are eliminated, I could be a member of FFA.—Kentucky

Some of the questions require more information than is available in the questionnnaire for response...Membership in FFA should be automatic with enrollment in vo-ag.—New York

I do agree that eighth graders should be allowed in ag but their privileges would need to be limited.—Missouri

I strongly agree that junior high students should be allowed to join FFA.—Georgia

I strongly disagree with FFA replacing the name of Future Farmers of America in official ceremonies.—Maryland

I wasn't sure what constitutional office meant, but I pictured it meaning being "voted on." So I think our officers should be consitituional...I don't believe that junior high should be allowed to be in FFA. I think they are too young and ought to have at least one year of 4-H behind them to prepare for FFA.—Texas

I believe that this year is a great time to consider changes because this year marks the bicentennial of our constitution that our government performs under...Some of the questions on the survey are absolutely ridiculous. Why would anyone want to do away with the office of president? secretary? treasurer? reporter?—Kentucky

Why do they think everything needs changed now? It worked just fine until now!—Ohio

I think you should have to be enrolled in vo-ag for at least one full year as a requirement...I don't think they should allow junior high to join the FFA.—Nevada

I am 100% opposed to making drastic changes in the FFA organization. To remove the word farmer may be acceptable when we are talking about certain degrees.—Oklahoma

It is my opinion that the name Future Farmers of America goes a long way to create this problem (stereotyping). Our current label is very misleading to the uninformed individual.—Kansas

I feel that some of the statements are important to the future of our oganization and should not be changed or think of being changed.—New Jersey

A number of the questions in the survey are carelessly formulated...Simply put, those babies are loaded...You ask the same question backwards two questions later...The six questions dealing with the offices of president through sentinel are not clear at all.—Oregon

One thing which everyone (chapter members) agreed upon was that some changes needed to be made to better reflect the true purpose and direction of the FFA.—Nebraska

It is my opinion that some changes in our vo-ag FFA programs are essential to the future success of our organization.—Iowa

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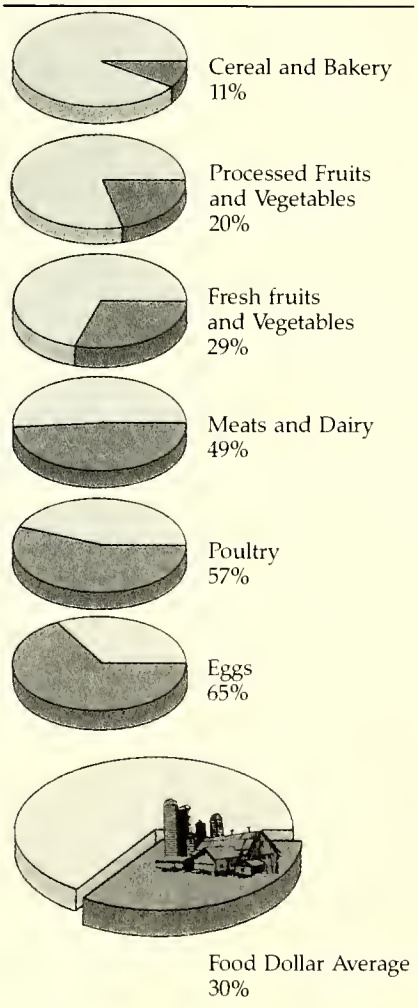
Looking Ahead

The Farmer's Share

A Department of Agriculture study shows that about 70 cents out of every dollar we spend for U.S. produced farm goods in a supermarket goes to pay for the marketing costs such as transportation, processing and distribution. The other 30 cents goes to farm producers. The farmer's share of the food dollar also varies greatly with the type of product. (See charts below.)

More than four-fifths of the food price rise from 1974 to 1984 was brought on by increased marketing costs, which rose 197 percent over the ten-year period. The other fifth of the increase was caused by higher raw product prices.

Percent of Food Dollar Going to Farmer From Various Product Sales for 1984



Information provided by College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Survey Shows Americans Support Biotech

The American public supports biotechnology and genetic engineering but is concerned about potential risks, according to a study from the Office of Technology Assessment, a congressional research agency.

The report states that 80 percent of the Americans expect the benefits of breakthroughs in science, biotechnology and genetic engineering to outweigh potential risks to humans and the environment. The survey also said that 71 percent of those polled expect innovations to pose at least some risk. The survey was conducted last fall by Louis Harris & Associates with a national sample of 1,273 adults.

The poll showed that 77 percent of Americans favor strict regulation to control risks. It also showed 82 percent of the public would favor small-scale testing of genetically altered organisms and 67 percent would approve if the testing were done in their own communities. Only 42 percent favored allowing commercial firms to release genetically altered organisms on a large-scale basis.

A-Maizing: Plastic Made from Corn

A process developed by Department of Agriculture researchers for making a biodegradable plastic have been licensed for use by a company that hopes to have a fast degrading cornstarch-plastic resin ready for commercial manufacture within a year.

Agri-Tech Industries, Inc., of Gibson City, Illinois, has obtained a license which allows them to further develop the process patented by USDA's Agricultural Research Service. The resin, 40 to 50 percent cornstarch, could partially replace petrochemicals in polyethylene products such as trash can liners, said Don Fisk, president of Agri-Tech. Later will come other starch-plastic products including packaging for fast foods and mulches for nurserymen and gardeners, he said.

Fisk said the plastic-resin research and development will be conducted in a pilot plant at the University of Illinois at Urbana through a university program to encourage new industry in the state. Some financing for the new venture—an estimated $250,000 over two years—will come indirectly from Illinois corn farmers through the Illinois Corn Marketing Board.

100 Scientests Needed

For the second year running, the United States Department of Agriculture has immediate openings for 100 research scientists ready to focus on top USDA priorities, including: how to control ground water contamination by pesticides used in minimum-till practices, genetic engineering techniques to control crop and livestock insect pests, improving bacterial nitrogen-fixation, and how plant enzymes are activated to produce sugar during photosynthesis.

Terry B. Kinney, Jr., administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, announced that his agency wants to hire 100 U.S. citizens who have earned doctoral degrees in the last three years. The latest batch of career-starting scientists would be appointed as research associates at a starting salary in the $27,172 to $32,567 range.

Kinney said that "We will be selecting scientists who have expertise in biotechnology and other research priorities that our laboratories are pursuing." He said the newcomers will join 201 USDA research associates currently working on a variety of projects throughout the country. Welcoming the new ideas that young scientists bring with them, he noted that one recently hired research associate took part in a gene-insertion project that could result in poultry with genetically-engineered disease resistance.

Iowa State to Get Irradiation Center

The Department of Energy and Iowa State University, Ames, have agreed to cooperatively build an irradiation demonstration facility for pork and other meat products.

Irradiation is a process using low doses of radiation which can extend the shelf life of certain commodities, disinfect fruits and vegetables and control parasites in pork.

The facility will be added onto the existing ISU Meat Laboratory and will be administered through the ISU Department of Animal Science and the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station.

The irradiator, which will cost $6 million, is one of six to be built in various regions of the United States. Other facilities, each of which will irradiate a different type of food, are planned for Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, Oklahoma and Washington.

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Born to Run

Patience and dedication pay off in training Thoroughbred racehorses

By Andrew Markwart

IT's 2:30 a.m. and Lydee Cassel is tired. Her Thoroughbreds ran well tonight at Maryland's Pimlico racetrack and now they're safely bedded down in their stalls, but it's been a long trip home. For Lydee, the night will be short. Tomorrow is another big day—and it will start in about two hours.

Lydee (pronounced La-dee) is no stranger to this kind of bizarre schedule. Since she was about 8 years old, she has been training Thoroughbred racehorses starting at 4:45 every morning. The late-night return trips back home to Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, could be from any of a number of racetracks—Pimlico, Bowie, or Laurel in Maryland, Garden State in New Jersey, Philadelphia Park or nearby Penn National.

Although the long trips aren't often, the late nights can take their toll on the 20-year-old trainer. The 1986 national FFA horse proficiency winner doesn't mind the lost sleep though, because horses mean the world to her.

She loves animals, all kinds of them. Her farm looks more like an animal park than a training stable. It isn't out of the ordinary to see a family of ducks or geese waddling down to the training pond or to hear peacocks calling out for attention. She spends more time with her dog Licorice than most of her human friends, and prefers it that way.

Basic Training

All the animals are important to Lydee, but the Thoroughbreds are a special challenge. These racehorses, she says, are like high-strung, temperamental athletes. "It's just like a coach training an Olympic athlete. We try to make each one our horses perform the best they possibly can. They have injuries, slumps and you have to mix up the training so they don't get sour on one thing. The worst part is they can't tell you what's wrong with them."

Despite the communications barrier, Lydee knows when a horse is sore or upset enough to run badly. Her training program includes physical therapy and relaxation. She uses a special swimming

Lydee with her prize Thoroughbred, Gifted Lover.

pond (shown on the cover) that relieves the stress of being ridden for the horse.

The idea behind using the swimming pond is that a horse's leg is very small compared to its large body, and their full weight lands on one leg at at time when they race. The pond enables the horse to get the same exercise of running on land without punishing the leg. It's also an enjoyable change of pace for horses that usually stay at the track says Lydee.

Another training technique Lydee uses is ponying. At the track, the trainer rides a ponying horse, usually a Quarter Horse, and leads the Thoroughbred by a halter. It builds more muscle tone than swimming, but without a rider on its back, it eases the stress on the horse's legs. At home, Lydee's "pony" is the bed of a pickup, where she holds on to the horse's halter as pickup and horse move together down a grassy airstrip.

Occasionally she uses a treadmill that is submerged in heated water. As the horse runs on the treadmill, it also gets massaged with water being sprayed out of surrounding nozzles.

It's nice to share—Lydee treats with a carrot at Penn National. She spends hours making sure her horses don't get a bad wrap.

Photos by Author

Horse Sense

Besides training them physically, Lydee also has to be concerned with the mental health of the horses. That's right—horse psychology. "You have to keep them as happy as you possibly can," says Lydee. "Our best horses have been our fillys (four-year-olds and younger) that we brought from the track to the farm. They really like the difference. It's not as noisy, it's calmer, they can swim, it's more relaxing for them and that boosts their spirit."

This kind of "body and soul training approach" is paying off for the Lydee and her partner Tim Shea. Of the 40 starts their horses have had this year, their record lists ten wins, nine second-place finishes and three third places. Although they don't have the highest number of first-through-fourth finishes at Penn National, they do have the highest percentage of "in the money" finishes, a testimony to their sensible training program.

"If a horse is sore, we lay it up. We don't push it until it breaks down."

Since Lydee owns four of the 13 horses she helps train, she has a definite interest in making a profit with them. But she won't let that profit motive corrupt the priority of the horses' well-being. "The bigger operators go through a lot of horses to make a profit," explains Lydee. "If a horse is sore, we lay it up. We don't push it until it breaks down." She rarely uses pain killers, popular among many trainers. She also works endlessly on the horses' legs, rubbing them down, massaging and bandaging them.

The Long Run

Lydee, like the racehorses she trains, seems to have been born to run. She has run two marathons (26 miles) and owns the junior high record for the mile and the half-mile. She wins most of the 10K road races she enters and usually doesn't finish further back than third place in a field of 100 or more women. While at Lower Dauphin High School, Lydee enjoyed team sports, especially field hockey. Joining the team in only her junior year, Lydee was offered a partial college scholarship in the sport, which she declined.

She has decided to ease away from athletics for two reasons—she became tired of the intense emphasis put on her to win because of her early track and field success, and the amount of time she needs to devote to training horses. "I don't have time for a team anymore because I'm training horses seven days a week. If you get in at 3 o'clock and have to start at 4:30, you've got an hour of sleep, so I can't devote my attention to a team and training horses."

It's this kind of practical down-homeness that is typical of Lydee. When asked how she felt about winning the national horse proficiency award, she bashfully said, "I'd be just as happy if nobody saw what I did."

Sorry, Lydee, but people are noticing.

•••

Sedimental Journey

Grassland FFA is helping keep soil and nitrates out of the Chesapeake Bay.

THE countryside surrounding New Holland, Pennsylvania, is beautiful in June. Crop plants are just taking root in the well-groomed Amish farms that roll along the hills. For the most part, the spring rains have stopped, and the hard-working residents are digging their heels in for a productive summer.

Less than 60 miles southeast from this Appalachian "Garden Spot" begins the Chesapeake Bay. Things aren't nearly as pretty in the bay. The fishing industry is in a slump. Fish populations have dropped. The problem is that too much soil is getting washed into the bay, and besides "clogging" the water for the fish, the sediment is filling in the bottom.

And there is another problem: excessive nitrates (a form of nitrogen) have upset the natural balance of the bay. Aquatic plants and algae are growing at an accelerated rate, upsetting the fish habitat.

Ironically, it is farmland in places like

New Holland's serene Lancaster County that is dumping excess soil and nutrients in the rivers that feed directly into the Chesapeake Bay. For members of the Grassland Environmental FFA Chapter at Garden Spot High School in New Holland, it has become clear that the soil and nitrate problem is starting in their own back yard, so they're doing something about it.

Woodlot Project

Working with the county soil conservation district and forestry service, the chapter and Advisor Robert Lauffer are helping set up an experimental/demonstration woodlot to curb the nitrate pollution of the area's water source. The New Holland Manure/Woodland Application Project is a three-year program to demonstrate the possibility of applying excess nutrients in the form of animal manure onto woodland.

Lancaster County has more animal manure than can be safely disposed of on its available cropland, and as a result, the county's Conestoga River is the worst non-point source polluted watercourse in Pennsylvania. The goal of the New Holland project is twofold. It will demonstrate to area farmers how to divert nutrients away from water sources by spreading the manure onto areas other than cropland and at the same time, increase tree growth. Woodland makes up about 17 percent of the total area in the county and many farmers have woodlots adjacent to their cropland.

The New Holland project is using a six-acre block of woodland as a testing site. Liquid hog manure will be spray irrigated onto half of the woodlot, leaving the other half as a control plot. Four of the six acres have been clear-cut, two of which have been replanted and the remaining left to grow back naturally.

Project planners are hoping that the trees and plants will utilize all of the applied manure. To be sure, they are monitoring the site for ground water pollution by using lysimeters, an instrument which samples ground water at 2- and 4-foot levels.

Jeff Stuffle, area service forester for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, explained the assistance given by the Grassland FFA Chapter. "The students really helped speed up the project, especially with the seedling planting. Now they're clearing the plant competition away to give the new trees a chance to get started. It's educational for them and a big help to us."

Traditional ideas of fertilization will have to be overcome in the area — nearly 75 percent Amish and Mennonite. That is where sophomore Jeff Witwer sees FFA members helping the project the most. "Maybe FFA members will be some of the first to start using this process," says Witwer. "It would get publicity and then, hopefully, the chain will begin."

Along with the new woodland fertilization project, the chapter continues its ongoing program of stream improvement projects. For the past 15 years, the chapter has been working on area streams to reduce soil erosion and improve fish habitat. By laying wooden poles along the edge of an eroding stream bank and securing them with rocks, the FFA members help keep soil out of the water.

The chapter also builds "jack dams" which creates a small waterfall. The falling water oxygenates the water and churns a hole in the stream bed which makes an inviting home for trout. These types of projects, explains Advisor Lauffer, are done for their long-term effects. "The students probably won't see the benefits of these projects while they're in school, but 20 years from now, we'll be glad we did it."

So will the fishermen in the Chesapeake Bay. •••

Mike Middleton, left, and Darwin Horst plant a pine seedling in the clear-cut test plots.

Brock Martin, left, and forester Jeff Stuffle, inspect a lysimeter, used to take ground water samples at the demonstration site.

Jim Shirk and Advisor Robert Lauffer check the chapter's stream improvement project at New Holland's Black Creek, facing page.

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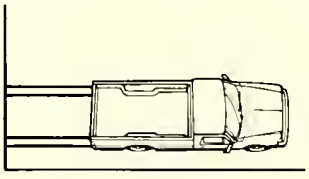

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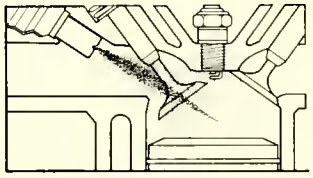

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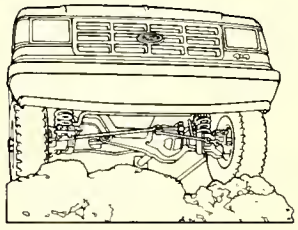

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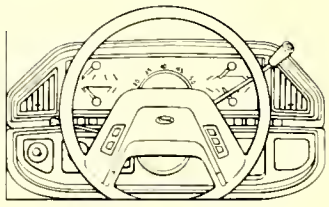

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**When properly equipped and with a fifth wheel.
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Photo by RJR Nabisco, Inc.

Food technologist Lisa Radle researches and develops new products.

The New Ag Professionals:

Food Science

By Sue Miller

EATING OREO cookies used to be simple. You could eat the middle of an OREO first, saving the chocolate cookie part for last, or dunk the whole cookie in a tall glass of milk and wait for it to get soggy.

But consumers are always wanting more from the products they buy. So today, deciding on which Nabisco OREO product to buy is a regular grocery store adventure. Is it going to be the regular, the Double Stuf, the ice cream versions or will it be the individually wrapped, giant-size OREOs displayed on convenience-store counters across the country?

Giving consumers choices and keeping them satisfied is what Lisa Radle, a food science graduate of the University of Massachusetts, helps do as she links producer to consumer.

An associate food technologist for the Biscuit Division of Nabisco, she explains her role in developing new products. "Once a product is thought up, our job is to determine the actual processing steps necessary to make the new product."

First, Lisa and other food technologists review product prototypes (an original from which others are copied) regularly with the marketing staff to determine the production steps. Once the marketing studies are completed, and if the product meets industry and government requirements, it is then ready for mass production.

From there the technologists try to evaluate all aspects of the product, from the feasibility to produce, down to the flavor and texture of the product.

Monitoring every step, food technologists, like Lisa, follow the product from beginning to end...the grocery shelf.

On the Road

If a desk job is not what you want, then following a product through production as a food technologist may be for you. Working for one of the more active divisions of Nabisco, Lisa spends 30 to 50 percent of her time traveling to one of Nabisco's nine bakeries across the United States. "The best part is bringing our products into production—we spend a good deal of time doing this—getting into the actual manufacturing facilities. But that is where it all happens and what allows you to get your product on the shelf—and that's the ultimate goal."

Once the product is into production, then the manufacturing people take over. The project is almost complete. "We consult on new product improvement, or help make changes in processing that need to be researched," says Lisa. "We take the product from start to finish, it is seeing the final product that makes it all worthwhile and rewarding." Set at a rapid pace, the entire process, depending on project priority, can take anywhere from six weeks to six months. Working on as many as three projects at one time, Lisa says it is the diversity and travel that makes a career in food technology so interesting and challenging.

Having What It Takes

Lisa's advice to high school students interested in this type of career, "Take chemistry, to find out if you have an aptitude and an interest. A college preparatory curriculum of biology, physics, statistics and math is also a big plus if you are considering food science." Another tip, "One of the best places to start is doing an independent study, being a lab assistant, or volunteering for that type of work. Seeking out actual experience and showing interest is the key."

Unaware of the food science career options after high school, Lisa attended Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire where she received an associate degree in chemistry. Still not sure of the job market, Lisa worked two years as a lab technician at Nova Analytical and then returned to school to get her B.S. in Food Science in May of 1985 from the University of Massachusetts.

Realizing the importance of job experience after working two years, Lisa interned with RJR Nabisco, Inc. between her junior and senior years at the University of Massachusetts. She advises, "It is a big plus in helping decide what you want to do following school...if you can get an internship or work in a career field which you think you are interested, in the long run you'll be ahead of the game."

Staying ahead is also important. Lisa is currently pursuing a master's degree in food science from Rutgers University in New Jersey. In June she will begin her second year at Nabisco—where carefully monitored consumer polls help create another marketable commodity...a new young professional. •••

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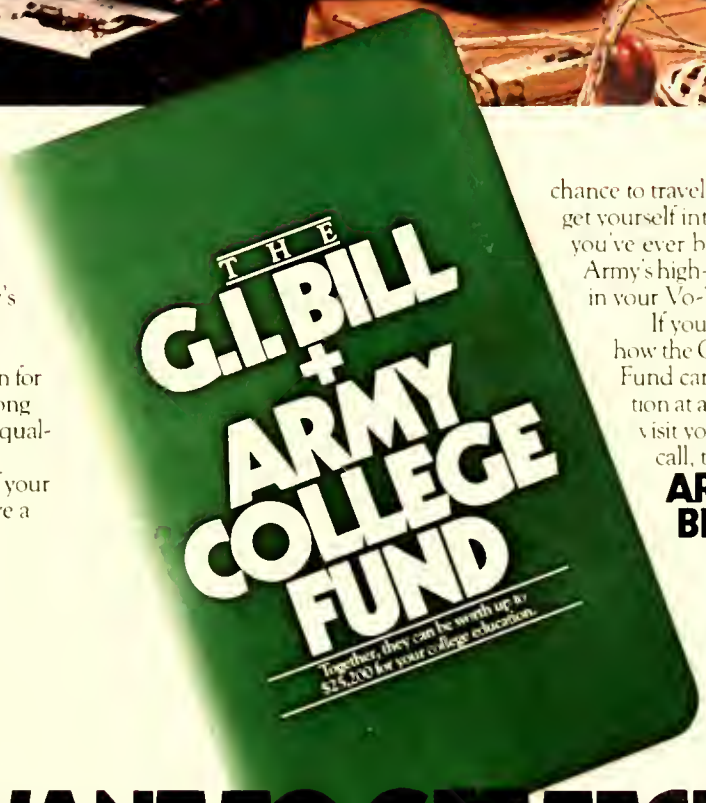


IF YOU WANT TO GET TECHNICAL IT ISN'T ONLY FOR COLLEGE.

TWENTY years ago the lakes and rivers surrounding Buffalo, New York, were a mess. People refused to swim in Lake Erie. Waste from the city was being dumped into the Niagara River. The Buffalo River actually caught on fire, fueled by pollutants pumped into the water from local industries.

In the late 1960s many people in the United States, including the city of Buffalo, started taking a second look at how they were abusing their natural resources. Those concerns evolved into a full-fledged crusade called the "Ecology Movement." Out of this movement came higher public awareness that people had to better manage natural resources such as soil, plants, wildlife and water, or lose them.

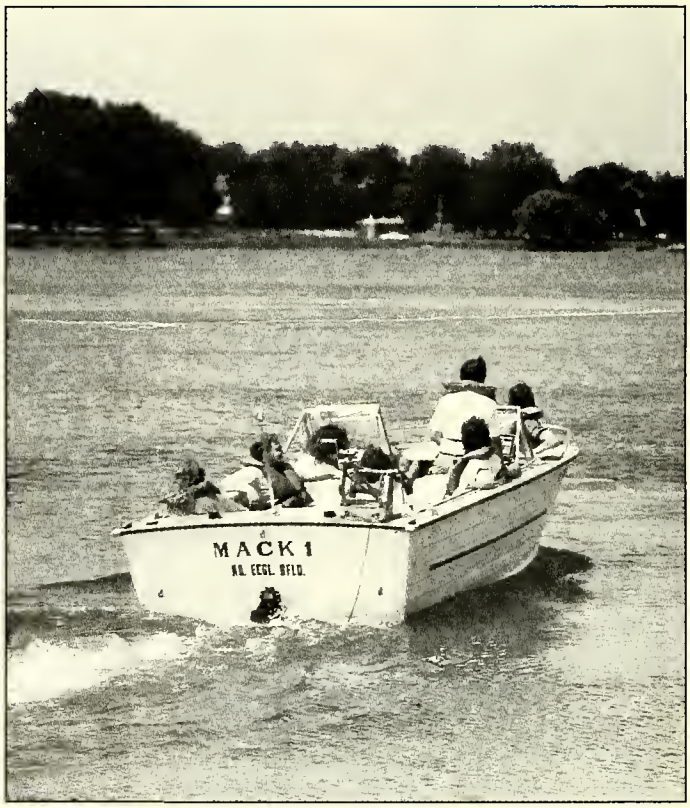
Today, Buffalo and its water are feeling much better. A combination of tough government pollution standards and a decline of the area's grain milling industry have cleaned up the air and water considerably. Because of Buffalo's murky history, there may be no place more suited for an Aquatic Ecology program than urban McKinley High School.

Aquatic Ecology is a four-year program in McKinley's agriculture department where students study how living things relate to their watery environment. This is no blow-off elective. Students compete from area junior high schools to get in the class. Enrollment is limited to about 75 total students so only those with the best grades are allowed to register, and just making it isn't enough. "Once they're in (the class), it's among the toughest programs in the high school to stay in academically," says instructor Doug Wright. "I've got my second valedictorian in three years."

Under the instruction of teachers Wright and John Opera, the students start their first year studying nutrient cycles, ecosystems and begin water quality testing on local rivers. As sophomores, they take boat safety, mechanics and piloting, wildlife management and specimen capture and marking procedures.

By the time students reach the 11th grade, they're studying algae, a basic necessity for any thriving water habitat, and other higher aquatic plants two days a week. The other three days are spent out of the classroom doing field laboratory work. It's the field work, says Wright, that makes the program so special. "There's probably more theory in our program than in most vocational programs, but we try to keep the students learning out in the field as much as possible. A lot of what we teach depends on what we find each year."

"There's work to be done and there's an object to it. We're not out there just to have a blast on the river."



A lot of what Aquatic Ecology students learn depends on what they find on their frequent field trips. Chris Czerwinski checks the temperature of a water sample, facing page.

The students can't get enough of it. "This is the only class that I'm really going to miss about school," said graduating senior Chris Schweigert. "Here we get a chance to get out in the water on our field trips." Chris adds that with that freedom comes responsibility. "Some people get the impression that it's just fun and games, but there's work to be done and there's an object to it. We're not out there just to have a blast on the river."

Tracy Percival, a junior who just received her Empire State Farmer Degree, says Wright treats the course like a college class. "My friends are amazed at the freedom we have in this class, but you'd better not be lazy. People who don't want to work shouldn't be here—and they aren't. Tracy says the fieldwork helps her in other classes. "Taking (aquatic) ecology helps you in biology class because if you're *doing* it here, you care more about *listening* to it in biology."

The last year of Aquatic Ecology concentrates on fisheries management. Rainbow trout are raised at the school using two ponds and an indoor facility that includes a student-built 1,000-gallon tank and a swimming pool. Wright recalls, "The people downtown (city school administration) thought I was a little strange ordering a swimming pool for school."

One of the ponds was hand-dug by some of last year's seniors. What they didn't know when they started digging was that the high school, constructed in the late 1960s, was built on top of the old McKinley High. "We were pulling up concrete and bricks; we even found some workboots—that was a little scary," says Wright.

Some major hardware for the program is due in this summer. A well is being drilled so a fresh supply of cold water will be available to raise trout. An incubator, new spawning tanks and other, larger fiberglass tanks will make it possible for the Aquatic Ecology class to raise their trout from eggs.

Until this year, Wright and his students have made an annual pilgrimage to a distant hatchery to get small fingerling trout. The new equipment, says Wright, will boost their production and provide for a more total learning experience. "Right now we only raise about 400 trout a year. Once we can incubate our own eggs and have the expanded tank space, we can then get up into the thousands," says Wright.

The popularity and uniqueness of McKinley's Aquatic Ecology program has not gone unnoticed. Representatives of the New York City school system in charge of the oceanography program visited McKinley recently. They're interested in starting a freshwater aquaculture program much like McKinley's.

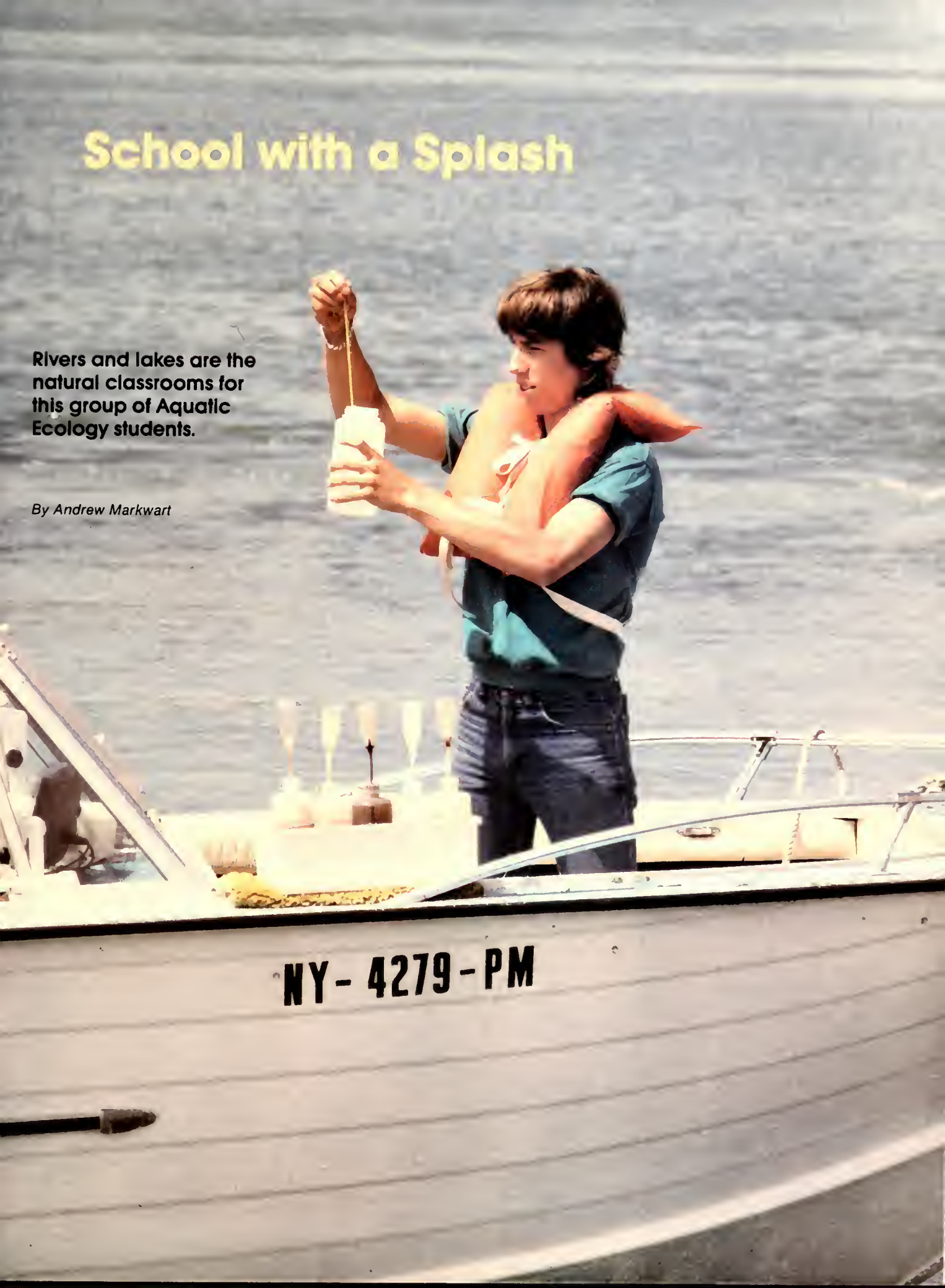
Recognition also came to the program when Wright was named Regional

(Continued on Page 20)

School with a Splash

Rivers and lakes are the natural classrooms for this group of Aquatic Ecology students.

By Andrew Markwart



Aquatic Ecology

(Continued from Page 18)

"We told them somebody better start looking for toxic chemical contamination. A year later they found toxic chemical drums and were really shocked. I hated to see them find the chemicals but we predicted it."

Finalist in FFA's Agriscience Teacher of the Year award program. The award, sponsored by the Stauffer Agricultural Products Division of Chesebrough-Pond's Inc., honored agriculture teachers throughout the U.S. for their innovative agriscience programs.

Testing the Waters

From the first day freshmen walk into Aquatic Ecology until their graduation, these students learn and perform water quality testing procedures. It is like a separate class within the class. They begin with the simplest water quality test which determines the oxygen level in the water. They also test for alkalinity and ph levels. According to Wright, "They get a tremendous amount of chemistry work at the beginning."

As students progress and learn more lab techniques, they start testing for ammonia, phosphate and nitrate levels in water. "There's probably about 40 different tests from arsenic to silicon that we can do on a water sample," says Wright.

After the students master how to test for chemicals, they tackle biological testing. These kinds of tests are used to determine if sewage is being pumped into a water supply.

Occasionally, the class is asked to do a water quality study for local businesses or organizations. Sometimes their recommendations haven't been what the client wanted to hear. "We were asked to do testing for the town of Holland's environmental planning board," explained Wright. "We got all done with it and they didn't like our report. They had such sewage contamination in Cazenovia Creek that I don't think they wanted to hear about it. They've since put in a sewage treatment plant out there."

A few years ago, Wright and his class did a complete environmental study for a city-owned wildlife preserve. Their findings weren't what the clients wanted to hear, and the clients dismissed the results because they were reported by "just high school students."

"We told them at the end of the study that from our observations we think somebody better start looking for toxic chemical contamination in one of the lakes. They said that was really nice and were pleasant to us and paid for all our chemicals and thanked us. The mayor even sent us a thank-you letter. A year later they found toxic chemical drums in the lake and they were really shocked and surprised. I hated to see them find it, but it was like, well, we predicted it."

Photos by Author

Patrolling the Niagara River is a common class exercise for Tracy Percival, instructor Doug Wright, Bridget Ronaghan and Chris Czerwinski.

Wright says that although his classes aren't out to get anyone with their water quality testing, they do keep their eyes open. "Most of the time it's uneventful, everything is just the way it's supposed to be. But once we found a chemical company pumping around ten thousand times the amount of phosphate that's allowable into a river. We reported the phosphates and the government, who was going over their new permit at the time. In the last four years since that happened, there's never been any phosphates coming out of that pipe anymore. It's amazing."

The Graduate

Students who graduate from the aquatic ecology program have gone on to study oceanography, chemical engineering and environmental law. One student returned to the county health department to coordinate their environmental programs.

The product of this type of program can be found in students like senior Dennis Clark. Dennis took all four years of the McKinley Aquatic Ecology program. This summer he is working with the soil conservation projects in western New York state. He will enter New York's Alfred State College this fall where he plans to major in pre-environmental science and forestry for two years. He hopes to finish his final two years of college at Syracuse University.

For his senior research project, Dennis tested the effects of common agricultural pesticides 2,4-D and diazinon on crayfish. He tested for the lethal concentration level of pesticides in the water that will kill the crayfish.

Like his fellow classmates, Dennis is a believer in field laboratory work. "This class is more in touch with the real world because of the fieldwork. We're learning about the environment using scientific methods out there. The fieldwork will prepare you for the work in your job."

Dennis says this type of agriculture program could work in other urban schools. "We're all city kids—none of us are from farms, but now we're more aware of environmental issues. I feel this kind of program would be just as effective in any other large city. It's working for us, why wouldn't it work for them?" •••

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First Impressions: You Never Get A Second Chance

MEETING people for the first time can sometimes be uncomfortable, especially in a job interview or in a presentation setting when "all eyes are on you."

The following are some helpful suggestions for young people from Mary Giannini, executive director of the Center for Career Services at Columbia University in New York City.

Personal Appearance. "People make an impression within the first two minutes of an encounter," says Ms. Giannini, "so personal appearance is very important." Color coordinate your clothes and be sure to keep them pressed. Hair should be neatly trimmed as well. To feel more at ease, use an anti-perspirant every day to help keep perspiration and odor under control.

Introductions. "When you are being introduced to someone for the first time," says Ms. Giannini, "a nice, dry, firm, but not bone-crushing, handshake is important. If your palms perspire, dry them before you shake hands." Right hands should meet palm to palm, with thumbs crossing. Shake briefly.

Eye contact is important when being introduced and when making presentations. "Shake hands and look directly into the other person's eyes," says Ms. Giannini. Establishing direct contact leaves the other person with the impression that you care.

"If you are making a presentation to a large group of people, scan the room with your eyes so it looks like you are addressing everybody," says Ms. Giannini. "If you're nervous, try looking at the top of people's heads. It will seem as if you are making direct eye-to-eye contact."

When attending a meeting, introduce yourself to the person chairing the meeting and that person should introduce you to the other people in attendance. "If it's your meeting, try to greet everyone at the door," says Ms. Giannini. "If the group is too large, introduce yourself to as many people as you can while mingling, then formally introduce yourself to the group at the beginning of the presentation."

Telephone Manners. A good telephone manner is not often taught but is an important part of how you are viewed by others. "The obvious: don't mumble," says Ms. Giannini. "Answer with your first and last name." The caller is able to identify that they have contacted the right person. When calling another company, limit the small talk and get down to business. More importantly, be specific and don't keep people on the phone needlessly. But don't be curt and cut them off either.

Performance. Follow these tips and you're sure to make a good first impression. But remember that the best way to impress new people is with sincerity and good, hard work. •••

Information courtesy of Procter & Gamble

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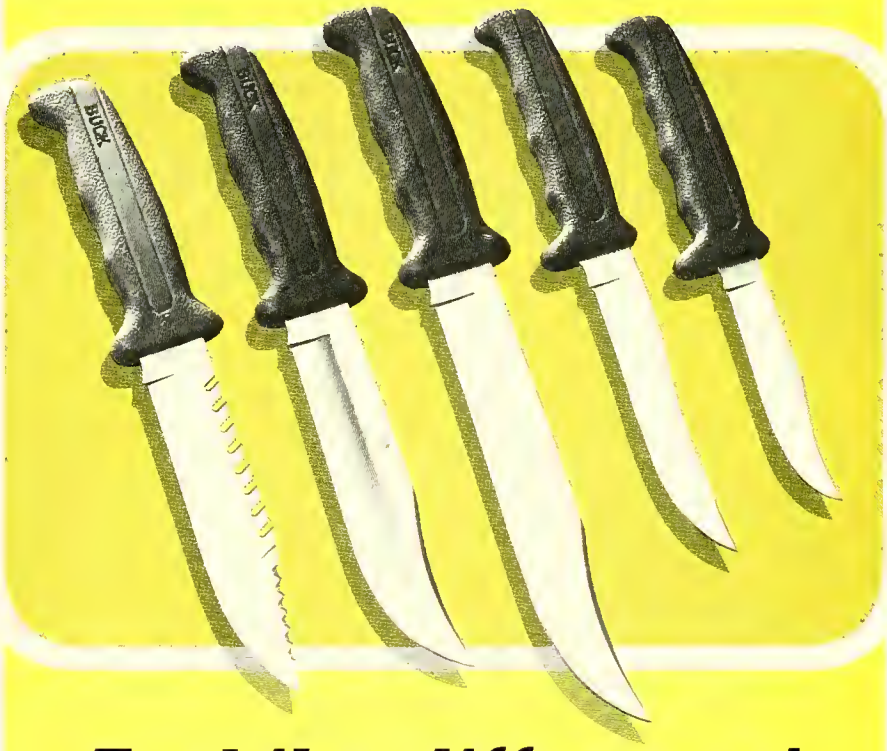

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No Such Thing As A Free Ride

High school rodeo taught Kim Stamps how to be a winner through good times and bad.

Photo by Author

Kim Stamps, the 1987 Oklahoma High School Association's top all-around cowgirl.

By Russ Florence

SOMETHING strange is happening.

The final contestant is at the gate. The competition has been intense. It's been a long weekend. Stakes are high. Emotions are high.

And the opponents—who have as much at stake as the next guy—are cheering on the competition.

Welcome to the world of high school rodeo, where heated rivalries don't always go hand-in-hand with hard feelings.

Take, for instance, Kim Stamps of the Moore, Oklahoma, FFA—the girl at the starting gate. Kim's been at it for about eight years now and is quicker to tell you about her rodeo friendships than she is to mention her winnings, which include three horse trailers, five saddles, "50 some-odd belt buckles" and over $18,000 in prize money.

It's not that she isn't proud of her winnings. One doesn't build a record like hers without feeling a certain amount of self-pride. It's just that Kim places value where value is due: in learning to keep

Kim wraps a leg with the help of her advisor Jeff Davis. The trailer is one of her many awards.

accurate, up-to-date records; in knowing that her horses' well-being depends upon her responsibility; in realizing the importance of setting definite goals; and of course, in learning to handle defeat—and victory—with a grain of salt.

Kim's mother says that rodeo alone may have taught Kim how to be a good sport.

"When Kim was little, if she made poor grades in school, she wanted no part of it," she says. "And then, when she started rodeoing, if they didn't call her name at the end of the night, she would start crying. I think as a result of that, she's really learned to become a good sport, whether it be in her schoolwork, in FFA activities, or in anything else."

Ponies to Pole Bending

Kim, now 18, first took an interest in horses as a youngster, when a neighbor trained horses for a living. She received her first Shetland pony on her ninth birthday and by the time she was ten, she was going to barrel racing clinics on the weekends.

She soon developed her skills in pole bending and goat tying and by the time she was 15, Kim was competing in 55 to 60 rodeos a year. Although she's still considered one of the state's best in barrel racing, goat tying and break-away tying, Kim's specialty is pole bending.

Her titles range from the only three-time winner of the Oklahoma Miniature Rodeo Association's all-around cowgirl, to most recently, the 1987 Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association's top all-around cowgirl.

"The thing that kept me going is just the desire to do better."

And now, simply because she enjoys it, Kim is planning on some day making a career out of her hobby.

But like anything else, getting to the top took more than just an occasional strike of pot luck. Her main advice for aspiring rodeo winners is a simple formula:

"To make it happen, you've got to be willing to put in the time and the hard work," she says.

In addition to her schoolwork and her responsiblilites as an officer in both student council and FFA, Kim puts an average of more than 50 hours per week into her project. That includes two or three hours of feeding, cleaning, riding and training, as well as frequent weekend trips to the veterinarian and on some summer weekends, two or three rodeos.

Quality Counts

Kim's project isn't huge—three Quarter Horse geldings and three mares—but its top-of-the-line quality earned her FFA's State Farmer degree and the western region horse proficiency award last year.

Kim's advisor, Jeff Davis, says that her top-notch program wasn't handed to her on a silver platter.

"One thing that stands out about Kim's program, as opposed to a lot of other programs, is that she started hers from scratch," Davis said. "She's worked hard to develop a well-rounded program and she's even been able to make some good money at it."

Now, preparing for her freshman year at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Kim looks back on her short career in the rodeo business and tries to put into words exactly what it was that always kept her going.

"There were lots of times when we came in at four or five in the morning from a weekend full of rodeos," she says. "And more often than not, I came home having not won. But there's never been a time in my life when I've said that it's not worth it.

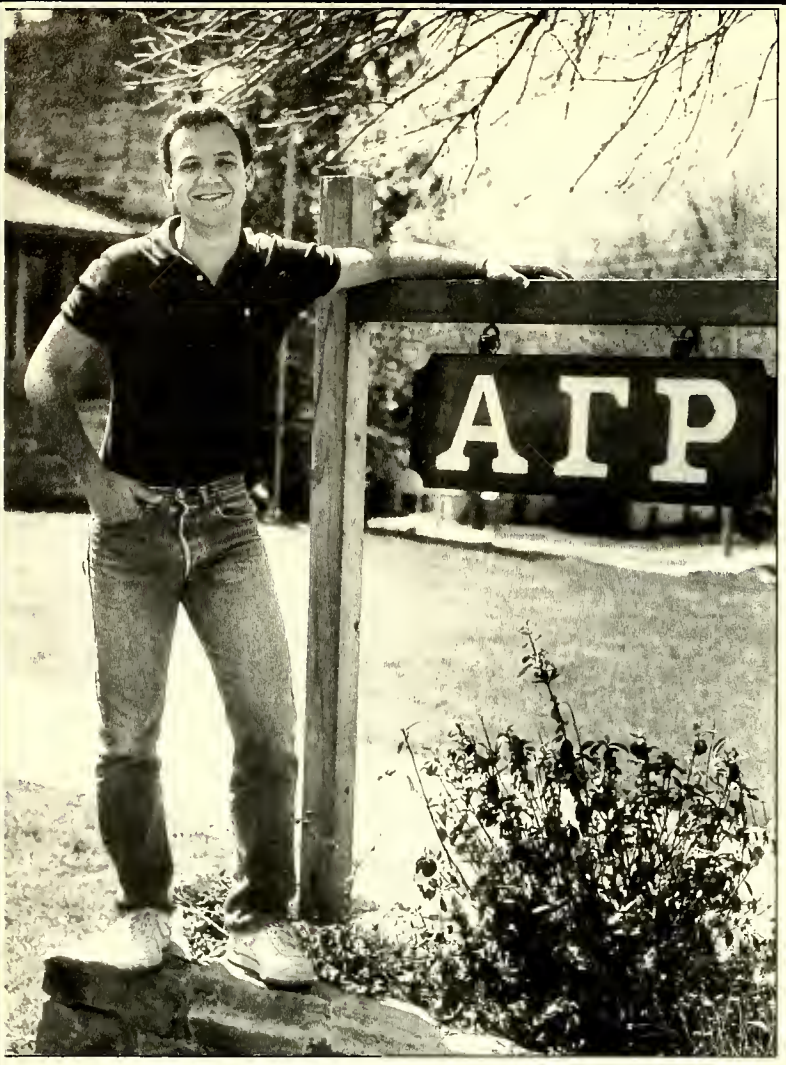
"I suppose the thing that has kept me going more than anything is just the desire to do better," she continues. "That's a lesson that I'll be able to use in college, too, and for the rest of my life to set your sights on high goals and to not give up when the going gets tough.

"One thing about rodeo is that when you lose, you can't blame anybody but yourself," she says. "It's an individual effort and you can't really blame the referees, the coaches or your teammates."

And if that's the case, then there's probably only one person who can accept the praise, when it's due.

"I think one good thing about high school rodeo," says Kim's dad, "is that the ones who work the hardest are the ones who are going to win. A mom and dad or vo-ag teacher can't train the horse, and then expect the student to go out there and make it work. So when Kim comes home pulling another trailer behind the pickup, or with a new saddle in the back, she deserves it."

Sometimes the good guys *do* finish first. •••



Rhodes scholar Kelly Welch is proud of his leadership activities, including FFA in high school and the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity in college.

Making The Grade

Rhodes scholar Kelly Welch says vocational agriculture and FFA helped him put school in perspective

EVERY year, 32 of America's brightest college students are awarded Rhodes Scholarships. These scholarships allow students to study two full years at Oxford University in Oxford, England, one of the world's most respected learning institutions.

Former FFA member Kelly Welch of Moran, Kansas, was selected as one of these scholars in 1986, and with the help of a $32,000 scholarship, will pursue degrees in philosophy, politics and economics starting this October.

Welch majored in both economics and agricultural economics at Kansas State University, where he graduated with a 3.98 grade average out of a possible 4.0. Although Rhodes scholars are picked mostly on academic achievement and intelligence, Welch is reluctant to reveal either his college or high school marks. He downplays their importance compared to personal communication skills. "One of the things FFA taught me is that it doesn't matter how smart you are, if you can't talk with people eye-to-eye or stand in front of a group to say what is on your mind, all that intelligence isn't doing you any good."

He said his main motivation for good grades in high school was the need for financial scholarships to go to college. That motivation literally paid off as he received 15 scholarships to attend Kansas State.

Believes in FFA

Welch credits high school agriculture and FFA activities for providing the leadership and personal development "you won't find in an English class." He took agriculture all four years in high school, a decision he has never regretted. He says his advisor, Ron Smith, "was more like a college professor" than his other high school teachers.

When asked how he felt about the "back to basics" movement in education (which raises math, science and foreign language requirements) and how that would affect his choice of classes if he were in high school today, Welch simply said, "For me, FFA *is* one of the basics."

He served as chapter officer three years, his senior year as vice president. His other FFA activities include a farm management team that placed third in the state, a district office, district Star Farmer and a land judging team that competed in the national finals in Oklahoma City.

When Welch enrolled in agriculture class his freshman year, he was entering a brand-new program being taught by a brand-new teacher, Mr. Smith. He said that once the FFA got going, it pulled a lot of students together who shared a common interest. Welch said that his advisor encouraged him to participate in Greenhand public speaking and get involved in various judging contests.

Although his academic honors are extensive, 22-year-old Welch is more eager to tell you about his leadership activities in college. At Kansas State, Welch was president of the Blue Key senior honor society, vice president for membership development in Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, an ambassador for the College of Agriculture and served as a senator in the Student Senate.

To round out his outstanding academic record and strong leadership activities, Welch has made sure he gained the right practical experience along the way. Starting on the family crop and livestock farm back home in Moran in 1977, he worked for an agricultural commodity broker in 1984, the Kansas Farm Bureau as a policy research intern in 1985 and, most recently, in the research department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Georgia.

It is rare to find someone with the combination of academic excellence and personality that Kelly Welch has, so it might pay off to read the financial section of the newspaper a little closer in the future. We're bound to hear a lot more from this former FFA member—now on the road to Oxford. •••

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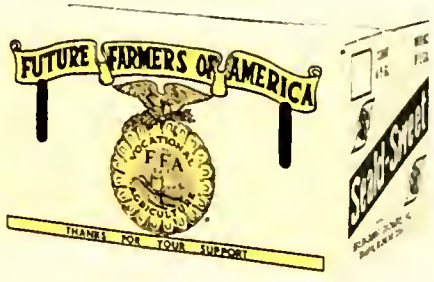

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Strait Takes Success in Stride

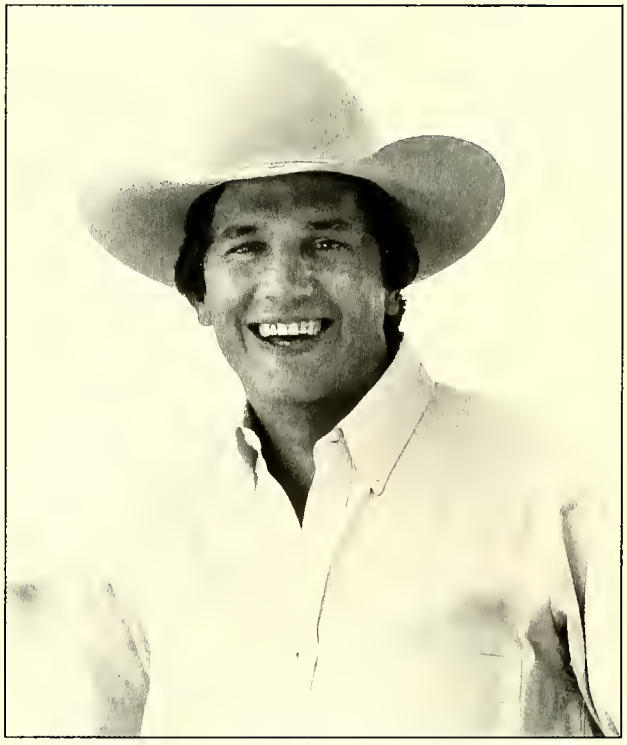
Blue and Gold Goes Platinum

By Jeri D. Mattics

WHAT do you have in common with the 1986 Country Music Association (CMA) male vocalist of the year? More than you might think. George Strait, the white knight of traditional country music, was a member of the Pearsall FFA Chapter in Pearsall, Texas.

Strait's FFA advisor, Mr. L. E. Downes, remembers his former student as a "hard-working young man from a strong ranching background." He was on the chapter livestock judging team, participated in the parliamentary procedure contest and received a dose of leadership training, including public speaking, through chapter activities.

Along with showing club calves, beef cattle production was George's Supervised Occupational Experience. Hard luck and lost dollars in his cattle operation cost Strait his State Farmer degree. However, perseverance runs through the Strait family and George didn't forget his SOE. Today, he runs cattle with his father, a retired math teacher, on the family ranch in southern Texas.



George Strait, former Pearsall, Texas, FFA member.

After high school, Strait married his high school sweetheart, Norma, and joined the Army. It was during his Army stint that George taught himself to play the guitar. Several friends joined in and a small country-swing band, with Strait singing lead, got started playing for their comrades on the base.

The Army's college program, along with a part-time job with a local ranch, provided Strait an opportunity to attend Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. He graduated with a degree in agricultural education and is a certified vocational agriculture instructor in the state of Texas.

C. Don Knotts, the advisor under whom Strait student taught and now on the agriculture education staff at Southwest Texas State, remembers his former student teacher as "a hard-working, easy-going young man. Strait got along great with the high school students but demanded, and received, respect."

Upon completion of his degree, Strait began managing the ranch he worked on during college. George worked double-time for several years, playing the part of a full-time rancher from dawn 'til dusk, and playing his heart out on stage after hours at local nightclubs. He became quite popular in the San Marcos area and finally got his big break when the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) received a last-minute cancellation from a scheduled performer. Less than 12 hours after Strait received a frantic phone call from HLSR officials, he found himself on center stage performing for the crowd.

Standing Room Only

Today, Strait holds the record for fastest sellout at not only the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, but the Houston Astrodome as well. On January 6, 1987, tickets for Strait's February 25th concert went on sale. Less than 24 hours later, fans had devoured the 48,000 available seats. The show, which was held in conjunction with the opening night of the rodeo, brought a standing room only audience of 49,246, setting a new record for the monstrous Astrodome.

On stage, Strait takes total command: command of a voice capable of everything from a honky-tonk wail to a touching ballad; command over his multi-talented Ace in the Hole band; command over the on-stage action, which is in the conservative camp; and, of course, command over the crowd.

Strait paces his shows, taking the audience into foot-stomping frenzies with heart-quickening Southwestern swing numbers like "Dance Time in Texas," and then to heart-melting happiness (at least the females in the audience) with ballads like "Marina Del Ray" and "The Chair."

Commanding respect from the audience, men included, is also a Strait trademark. That's tough to do when the females in the audience are swooning over his boy-next-door wholesomeness and soft Southern drawl. Strait performs as well on the charts as he does on the stage. He claims title to a list of musical credits as long as his arm including 1986's *Music City News* male vocalist of the year, *Billboard's* overall top artist, 1985's Academy of Country Music male vocalist and album of the year. "Ocean Front Property," Strait's most recent album, debuted at the number-one spot on *Billboard's* country album chart; a feat not even supergroup Alabama has accomplished.

"Ocean Front Property" was recently certified gold, adding to Strait's precious metal collection. George's entire album catalog has gone gold and his "Greatest Hits Volume I" was certified platinum earlier this year. Unlike many of today's performers, this superstar carefully maintains an image as American as apple pie. Strait's carefully pressed and starched shirts, equally wrinkle-free jeans and trademark wide-brimmed hat, recent netted him the title "Best Dressed Country Male" an award chosen by *Music City News* magazine's readers.

Responding to the award, Strait commented, "I've always tried to project a clean look. I feel this is important...even though I've been criticized by some members of the press at times for being too 'wrinkle-free.' Thank you very much for this great compliment." Judging from Strait's tremendous audience response, these days it's "hip to be square." •••

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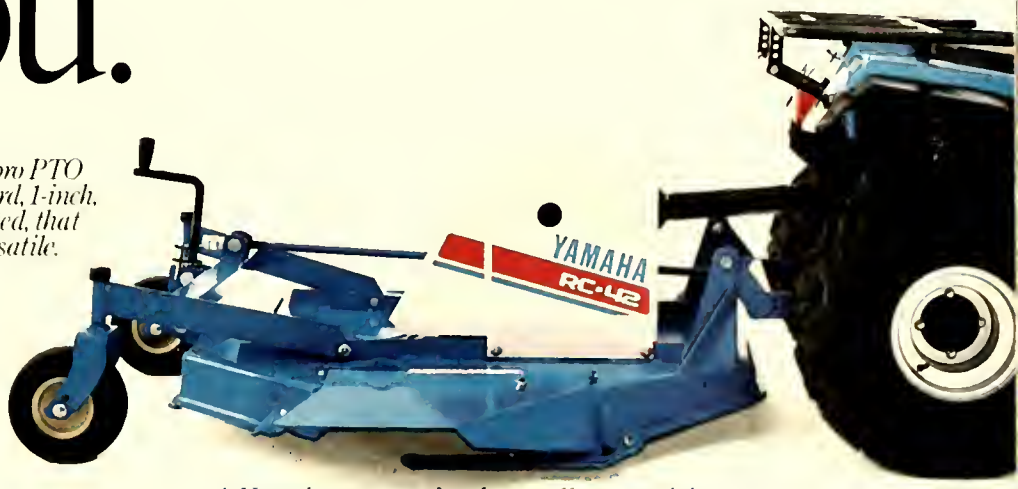

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A Blueprint For Agriculture

Sam Brownback tackles Kansas' ag problems with a plan

Sam Brownback, former national FFA vice president, is now Kansas Secretary of Agriculture.

It only takes a few minutes with Sam Brownback, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, to realize that the state's agriculture is about to change and the former national FFA officer is the man in charge.

Brownback, who grew up on a farm near Parker, Kansas, is the youngest secretary of agriculture ever to be elected. He was an agricultural law specialist at Kansas State University before taking his current position.

When Brownback was FFA's western region vice president in 1977, Kansas agriculture was doing fine by today's standards. Ten years later, Brownback is faced with reviving a shaken agricultural economy. He is meeting the challenge with what he calls his "Blueprint for Kansas Agriculture."

Brownback says the farm community has relied on marketing only a few commodities for too long. "Kansas agriculture produces some commodities, like wheat and cattle, as efficiently as anyone in the world," said Brownback. "But, as we've learned the hard way, we have to diversify into more products than that."

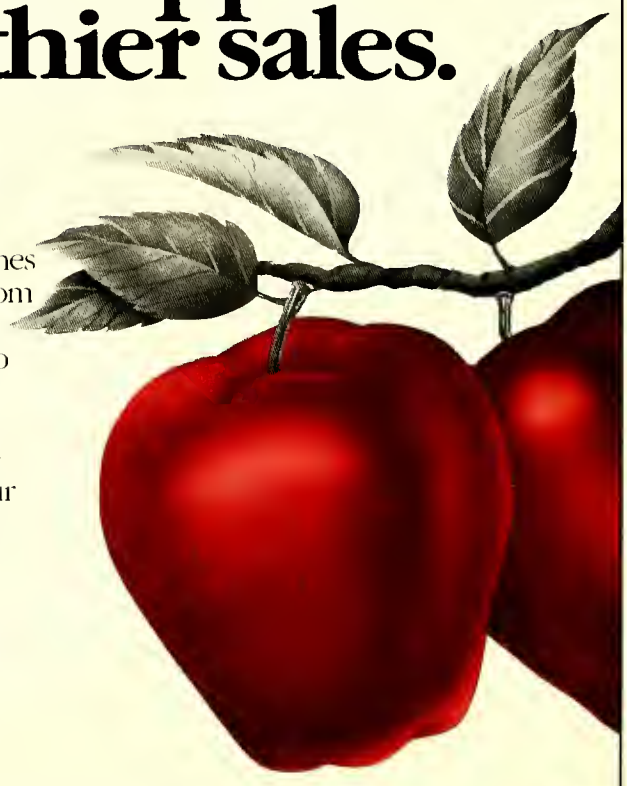
For Kansas to get back on its feet again, Brownback says farmers will have to broaden their concept of what they can grow. "The producers of today are going to have to be a class of innovators," said Brownback. "Prices were good enough (ten years ago) that you didn't need to be as creative, but those days are gone."

Brownback says the mid-size farms, abundant for so many years, are now transforming into three different classes of farms; the mega-farm, commuter farm and the niche farm. The mega-farms are the very large operations covering thousands of acres and rarely change hands. The commuter farm is operated by someone who works at another job and farms only part-time. And finally, the niche farm is usually a relatively small farm that produces specialized commodities, such as turkey eggs.

Along with diversifying commodities grown in the state, Brownback sees great potential in processing products grown in Kansas rather than shipping them to another state. This would create local jobs needed in many Kansas communities.

Brownback has criss-crossed the state speaking to farm organization members about his ideas. He says that although the farmers are more skeptical than most people, "they see me offering new ideas with the energy to back them up. They're open to what I have to say because they've tried most everything else and it hasn't worked." •••

Washington apples mean healthier sales.



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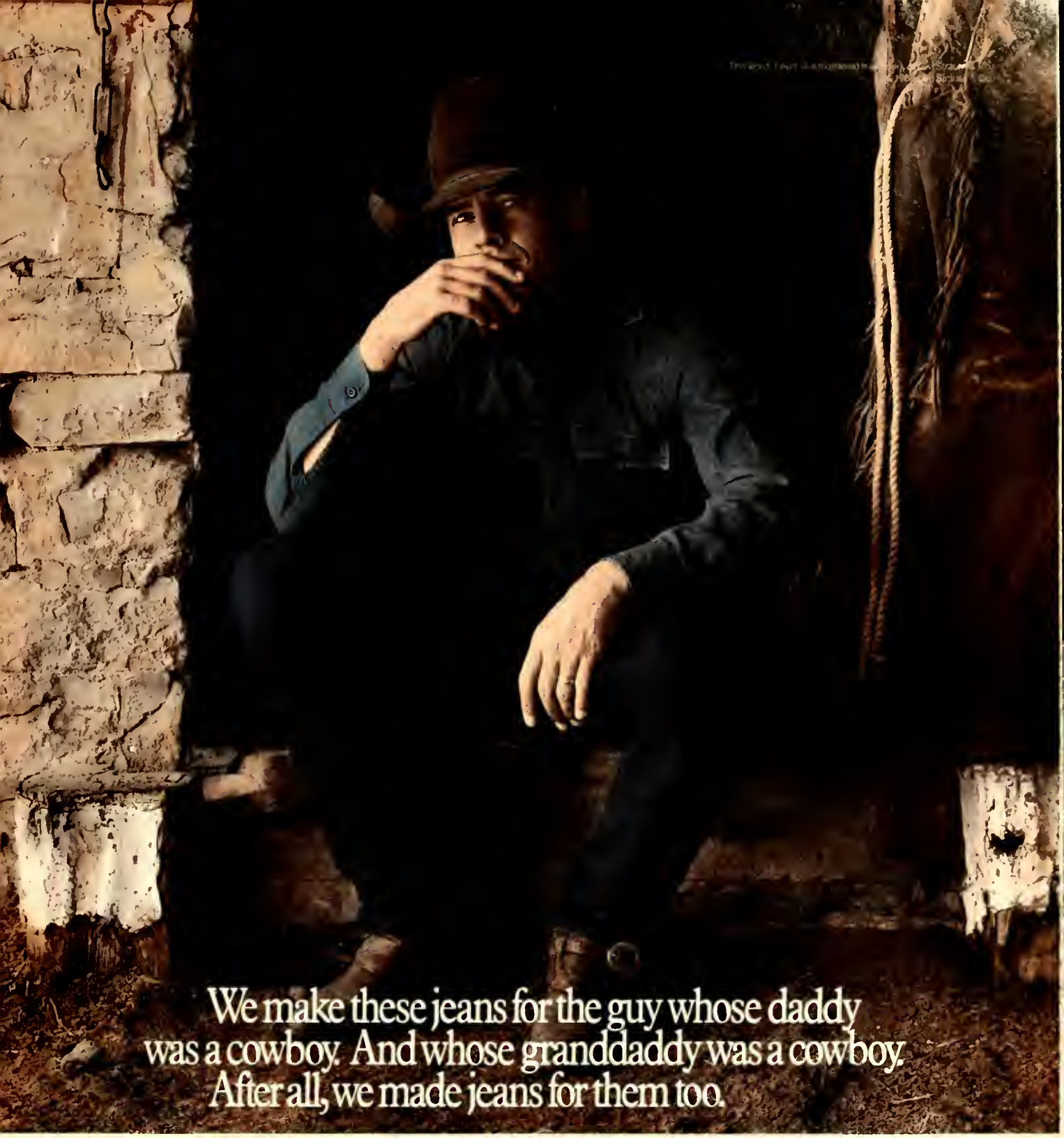
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A Attract attention in Bailey's handsome "Mesquite" felt hat in silver mist color with 6-inch crown and 4-inch raw-edge brim. A new high in quality western fashion.

A

B Father and son dress comfortably and fashionably in "constant-stripe" shirts from Panhandle Slim's fall line. The easy-care 50/50 cotton and polyester stylings are available in royal blue, mustard yellow, jade green or poppy red, all with dawn gray striping. Boys' shirt, sizes 4-7 and 8-20, mens' Roper shirt, 14-17 1/2 neck, 32-36 sleeve.

B

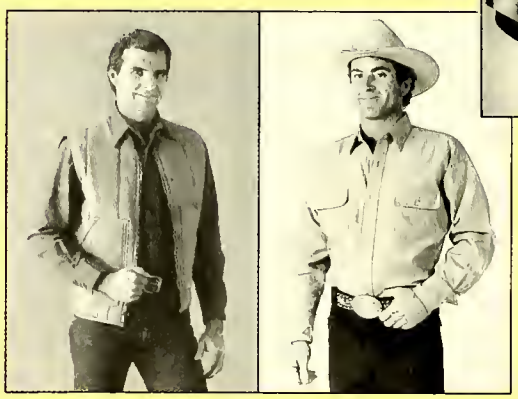
C Tony Lama introduces a brand new shade of dark grey lizard boots in two styles. This modern shade of grey combines well with the texture of the boots giving them a dressy look. Pictured here are the new dark grey lizards in two toe styles: (left) the western traditional "J" toe and (right) the slightly rounded "R" toe.

C

D Walls' Harvester Duck Vest features tough 100% cotton duck over 6 ounces of polyester insulation that offers just enough warmth where it counts without bulk. Designed for workers and riders, it has a smooth 100% nylon taffeta lining, comfortable knit collar, snug-fitting elastic inserts at the back waist, plus a protective kidney flap.

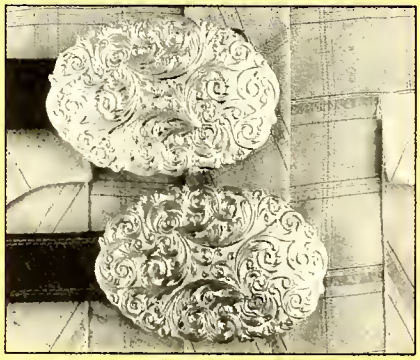
E Country blues from H Bar C/California Ranchwear means comfort in their "Manitoba" young man's shirt of light blue, prewashed chambray. This long-tail shirt features rounded flap pockets and back yoke.

D, E



F Beauty and the Buckle—New picture-perfect sculptured engraved buckles from Montana Silversmiths. They're available in Sterling silver plate or Sterling silver plate with jeweler's bronze filigree engraving.

F



G Wildflower, a ladies' roper from Nocona, is available in red, grey, burgundy, navy, black, taupe and rose. A distinctive Wildflower logo stitched on every pair is a guarantee of Nocona quality. Wildflower's exclusive roper fit and twenty-toe design makes it a most comfortable boot, right down to the tips of your toes.

G

H This new Wrangler Boots' Trophy Series model features a stylish grey lizard tip on a full-grain grey cowhide foot and is topped with a 13-inch full-grain cowhide shaft.

H

I

I Resistol Hats presents its fall line sure to please both men and women. Styles (left to right) are Quicksilver, Hot Lips, Sizzle and the Jackson.

J Pioneer Wear incorporates a modern Indian design on this ladies' jacket for a trendy Southwestern look. The jacket is 26 inches in length and is polyfilled fleece with knit cuffs and waistband. The jacket is available in off white, light pink and light blue and in sizes 6 through 16.

K Poridon, the world's first pour-on fly killer for horses, protects them from house flies, horse flies, stable flies, mosquitoes, lice, ticks and gnats for 7 days and horn flies for 20 days. Its unique binding action helps prevent it from washing off in the rain and the special matrix slowly releases the active ingredients, permethrin and PBO, while protecting against degradation by sunlight.

L The Sittin' Pretty Too Hereford Brand saddle from Tex Tan features a rawhide tree, 12 1/2" fork, Quarter Horse bars, rounded style cantle, rawhide braided 3 1/2" x 2" horn, 15 1/2" cushioned seat, hand-tooled acorn and leaf design, russet-finish leather-covered visialias and its fully-equipped weight is 29 pounds.

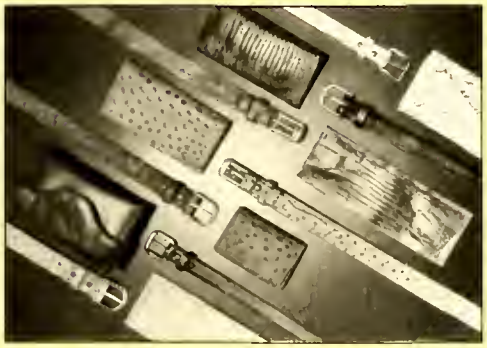
J

K

L

M Here is an exciting collection of fine leather accessories from Tony Lama Leather Products that includes belts for men and women as well as wallets, organizers, credit card secretaries and check book covers. Pictured here (left to right, top row) Natural Ostrich credit card secretary with matching 1 1/2" Natural Ostrich belt. (Left to right, second row) Ladies' 1" Goatskin belt that matches the large Goatskin organizer. (Left to right, third row) Kango Tabac Ostrich Keycase with matching 1 1/4" belt. (Left to right, fourth row) Peanut Brittle Ostrich 1 1/4" Ranger belt with matching check book cover. (Left to right, fifth row) Peanut Brittle Lizard credit card secretary with matching 1 1/4" Ranger belt. (Left to right, last row) Ladies' Natural Whipsnake wallet (small organizer) with matching 1" belt.

M



N

N Go ahead, it won't bite. It's Abilene's 13" Wichita Peanut Brittle Shark book.

O Tightening one's belt becomes a pleasure when the belt is by Lyntone for the Kenny Rogers Western Collection. In a variety of leathers and hand-braided horsehair, the belts for men and women are accented with silver conchos and detailed tooling.

O

P

P Here's some rough and rugged denim from Levi's Western-wear. At left, the new oversized sherpa-lined sidepocket jacket has a 100% cotton stonewashed denim shell and an 80% polyester 20% acrylic lining for added warmth. It is also offered in bleached blue, black, stonewashed black, whitewashed blue and whitewashed black denim. The jacket is teamed here with the original button-fly 501 jean in 100% cotton stonewashed denim. 501 jeans are available in a wide array of denim finishes and colors. At right is the classic Levi's jacket, available in bleached, stonewashed, rinsed and dark blue, black, white, graphite and charcoal grey denim. The heavy-weight straight leg jean is 98% cotton 2% lycra stretch for added comfort and is offered in both stonewashed and rinsed blue.

The Big Picture

Exchange students energize school and FFA chapter

Johan, Anders and Matti, right, brought an international perspective to Staples' agriculture classes and FFA meetings.

THE world is getting smaller. Of course if you and a friend strung a tape-measure around the equator, it wouldn't be any shorter today than it was yesterday or last year. It's in small town high schools like Staples, Minnesota, where the world is drawing closer together.

Agriculture instructor Dave Becker and principal Bruce Pederson believe that going to school in Staples should be more than studying things like history, English, math and plant science. They want Staples students to broaden their minds—to think bigger than their hometown (population 2,887), even bigger than Minnesota.

That's why a total of nine foreign exchange students, five of which were enrolled in agriculture classes, attended Staples High School this past year. Three of the agriculture students arrived on FFA's new World Agri-Science Studies program. Anders Larsson and Johan Ericsson of Sweden and Matti Isolauri (Motti Is-o-lar-ay) of Finand spent the 1986 school year at Staples experiencing school and life in the United States. Most of FFA's Work Experience Abroad (WEA) students usually live and work with a farm family, but don't attend school on their exchange, so this was something new for FFA (See sidebar).

If students at Staples had any notions that Europeans would all be alike, they found themselves wrong soon after the three arrived. About the only thing the three had in common was that they were from Scandinavian countries. They found Johan (Yo-hon) to be quiet, shy, polite and very intelligent. Matti was the athlete of the group. The 6'6" blonde discus thrower was reportedly the hit of the prom this year, too. And then there was Anders, the comedian. Full of confidence and always ready with a joke, he kept classes and meetings light.

Laurie Uhlenkamp's idea of what the exchange students would be like wasn't even close, she admits. "I thought they would act like they owned the place, but instead, they came in and started asking a lot of questions about us and the FFA." As chapter vice president, she has seen the presence of the Europeans as a plus because, "There's more awareness of the FFA among the rest of the students here because of the exchange students. They've also sparked more enthusiasm in the chapter itself."

Big Ideas

Laurie is now considering international travel, something she says she never thought much about before going to school with exchange students. This is just what agriculture instructor Becker was hoping.

He says the goal of having the exchange students in the program is to broaden the Staples students' minds "to think beyond, and then *go* beyond our local community. The idea is to show

(Continued on Page 38)

It's More Than School, It's an Adventure

The World Agri-Science Studies Program is now available to those FFA members between the ages of 15-19. Students will have an opportunity to attend school in another country and live and work with a host family for one year. Like the United States, students take required classes such as mathematics, language and history, and can select other elective courses, such as agriculture. Students may be able to receive credit toward graduation for their year abroad.

FFA members can choose between West Germany, Finland, England, Ireland, Sweden or the Netherlands for their exchange. Everyone will have the opportunity to take a four-week language course in their exchange country before they start in their host schools.

The program will be available for the 1988-89 school year. All FFA chapters will receive a packet of material describing the new program in August, 1987. Interested students should contact Theresa Schumacher, World Agri-Science Studies Program coordinator, at the National FFA Center for more information. Call 1-800-422-0990 or write to: World Agri-Science Studies, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

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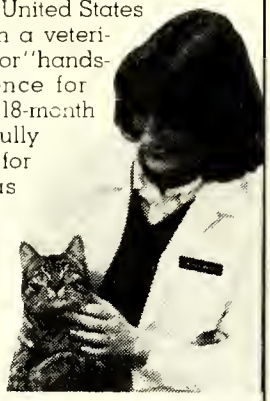

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Big Picture

(Continued from Page 36)

them that there's more going on than what's in Staples, Minnesota."

Not that there is anything small about Staples. On the contrary, as long as people can remember, Staples has been a small town with big ideas. For example, in 1960s, two enterprising agriculture teachers found they could irrigate the area's normally dry soil by pumping out of shallow wells only 28 feet deep. It revolutionized agriculture in the area.

One popular exercise in Becker's agriculture class was to take market prices from a local newspaper and compare them to those in a Swedish newspaper of the same day. The class tried to determine if changes in U.S. markets affected European markets, and to what extent. This idea of "global marketing" was new to most of the American students, but not to the Europeans. European countries are located closer together and are more dependent on each other, so they're used to "international" trade and how it affects their country.

These kind of class exercises were different for Matti. He said the classes at Staples were more lively than those back in Finland. "You use more films here, talk together and take field trips. (In Finland) We use more books and just study and read. I think this system is a little bit better. It's so boring to read all the time."

Part of the excitement was taking part in FFA contests and other activities. Johan was top individual in the district ag mechanics contest, where his background in aircraft mechanics came in handy.

The group also went to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. The size of the event overwhelmed them. "I didn't know that this FFA program is so large," said Matti. "It's just enormous. It was unbelievable to see a whole town flooded with FFA people."

The European students found American lifestyles different from what they had expected. Most of their exposure to the United States had been through imported television programs like "Dallas" and Hollywood movies, so they were expecting most Americans to act like J.R. Ewing and the whole country to look like southern California.

Minnesota came as a pleasant surprise. "I found the people here to be very friendly and nice to me," said Anders. "People are about the same no matter where they're from."

It seems that everyone at Staples, whether they be students, teachers or principals, agrees on one point; exchange students bring excitement to the school. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the exchange students and that excitement rubs off on the other students," said Becker. The principal agrees. "We've got six students in afternoon ag class that wouldn't be there if it weren't for the international students and what they've brought to this program," said Pederson.

He explains how the exchange students are changing the way people in Staples view the rest of the world. "We're becoming a world community. Our students have a better appreciation for foreign people and a broader understanding of other nations."

The world just got a little smaller.

•••

Through a common interest in airplanes, Swedish exchange student Johan Ericsson was hosted by the Neal family. Left to right are Johan and Craig, Chuck and Dee Dee Neal.

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Photo courtesy of John Deere

This person is wearing all the recommended safety gear except one item. Can you find it?

Cutting The Danger Out Of Chain Saws

Here are some tips that could save life and limb

RAZOR-SHARP blades rip into the trunk of a towering white oak. The high-pitched whine of a chain saw drops to a growl as it tears its way through the tree. As the oak crashes to the ground, you wonder how people ever cut wood without chain saws.

Like so many of today's labor-saving machines, chain saws have boosted the efficiency of the forestry industry and eased the workload of the weekend firewood cutter. They are also enormously dangerous.

If these machines are designed to cut through trees, it isn't hard to imagine what they can do to a leg or a chin that are a fraction of the toughness. "The first thing you should do, before you ever pick up a chain saw, is learn what it can do for you, and more importantly what it can do *to* you," emphasizes William Steinbroner, forestry instructor at the Ellicotville Vocational-Technical School in Ellicotville, New York.

In his 15 years of teaching forestry, none of Steinbroner's students have suffered a serious injury from chain saws. The secret, he says, is to start out with good safety habits so they become part of your wood-cutting routine.

Dress Tough

The right clothing and personal protective gear are a must in chain saw safety. Steinbroner recommends four pieces of gear; work boots, gloves, chaps and a hard hat.

Start with a pair of good leather work boots. Strong leather lasts a long time and is an excellent foot protector. He says that steel-toed boots are probably the safest, but tend to get cold in the winter. Then acquire a pair of work gloves—not too bulky, but something like truck drivers use.

A pair of chaps is crucial. Chaps tie around the waist and legs to shield them from the saw blade. They are made from several layers of ballistic nylon (used first in bullet-proof vests) and will actually grab the saw's chain as it hits the fabric. Steinbroner says there is no need to sell the idea of chain saw safety to his students after they see chaps that are scarred in four or five places—scars that represent lost or maimed legs.

Finally, a hard hat should be worn at all times. Many of today's hard hats come equipped with a face shield and earmuffs attached. This saves from misplacing or losing separate attachments.

Steinbroner says the key to chain saw safety is to keep your protective gear stored right next to your chain saw and use them every time, even for the small jobs.

After the gear is in place, he recommends some often overlooked cutting tips: make sure your chain saw is in good operating order with a well-tuned engine and sharp teeth on the chain—this will save from pushing the saw. Never cut with a chain saw standing off-balance and watch your footing. Clear brush away from the base of a tree before you start cutting to avoid tripping.

At the tip of a chain saw's blade, the chain is travelling both out and down. When this part of the saw touches a solid surface, it causes the saw to jump or "kick back" toward the operator. This is one of the biggest causes of chain saw accidents. Always use the flat surface of the blade.

And finally, lowering the saw in mid-air while pulling the starter cord or "drop starting" a chain saw is very hazardous. If the saw doesn't start, the engine will force your arm downward with the tip of the saw headed for your right leg. It's much safer to set the saw on the ground, holding the top handle with your left hand and placing your foot on the back handle as you pull the cord.

All of these tips take a little more time and money, but they're only a fraction of what it costs for a surgeon to sew a limb back on to a careless woodcutter. Think about it. ●●●

Answer: He's not wearing chaps.

It's bad when a fox outsmarts you in the woods. It's worse when he does it in a magazine.

1 When using a predator call, you should gradually decrease the volume. How come?

5 What's the best way to look for fox tracks in a plowed field. A or B?

You think those guys in the NFL know how to throw some wicked fake moves? Well, next to the red fox, it's pretty tame stuff.

Of course, maybe you think the fox hasn't been born that you can't outwit.

So, start outwitting. Here are five quizzes to test your fox I.Q. Take a shot at them. But if you miss a couple, don't be surprised. After all, foxes are unpredictable critters.

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Admittedly, you could go and hunt fox with something less than a Marlin 39. But it just might let you down. And that's enough to make anyone see red.

See both the 39A pistol grip and 39M straight grip versions, as well as all the Marlin 22's, in over a dozen variations, from the 15Y youth rifle to the Model 60 semi-automatic, at your gun dealer. Also, ask for a free catalog with more hunting quizzes. Or write Marlin Firearms Co., 100 Kenna Drive, North Haven, CT 06473.

2 True or false—apple orchards are a good place to hunt fox in the Spring.

4 When a fox jumps a stream, you can expect him back in A) a half hour, B) 2–3 hours, C) not at all.

3 What's a good way to tell when a den is being used and when it isn't?

Answers: 1. The idea is to mimic a dying rabbit whose strength is gradually weakening. 2. False: in the Autumn, foxes love to eat apples fallen off the trees. 3. Place some small twigs across the holes. If they've been disturbed, you've found an active den. 4. C is the answer. once a fox jumps over water he rarely returns the same way. 5. A is best, since foxes prefer to follow the furrows, walking at right angles to them increases your chances of spotting tracks. Send $2.00 for our full color poster with 15 hunting quizzes.

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Chapter Scoop

Ysleta, TX, FFA is back at "brandin'" tractors with the "Brand 'em for Safety" sticker. They've already done 525 in their community.

It rained for the first two hours of the **Carrizozo,** NM, annual alumni, parent and member picnic. So everyone enjoyed the good eats. Then when the old sun came out, played a fierce game of volleyball.

The **Willow Springs,** MO, FFA scholarship was increased this year by $1,000.

Graduating seniors were treated to a party after the last chapter meeting of the year at **Meridian,** ID. The seniors carried out the tradition of reading their "wills" to underclassmen. Then the seniors provided entertainment for all by having a belly dancer as a surprise for their ag teachers.

Graduating senior officers *Christal Clayton* and *Teri Ward* broke tradition, instead of a serious farewell officer speech and told of all the pranks and fun the seniors had had over the four years in **Salem,** AR, FFA.

Jason Castner performed rope tricks for elementary school kids who were at the **Lancaster,** CA, FFA farm field day.

The **Apple Valley,** CA, FFA held a Wild West show at their school during FFA Week — contests involved students and faculty.

Avery Watkins sent word about the parent-member banquet for **Garrard County** in Lancaster, KY. A state officer spoke and there were the usual awards and officer installations.

And *Deena Stephen,* reporter for the **Hickman County,** KY, Chapter sent news about their parent-member banquet which hosted 167 guests.

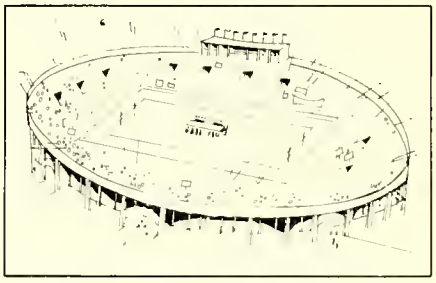
FFA Alumni scholarships presented at the **Evergreen,** WA, awards night went to *Allen Sorenson,* $200 and *Kristel Scholts,* $300.

At the 25th anniversary banquet of **Elgin,** OH, FFA, first chapter president *Bill Isler* introduced his officer team who were present.

Rockridge FFA in Edgington, IL, uses an F-20 IH to pull their popcorn machine out to the football games.

Socorro Chapter near El Paso, TX, has started publishing a monthly newsletter with *Jack Watters* and *Edward Robledo* as editors.

Steve Boland and *Mike Henderson* won the $8 top prize in a horseshoe tournament for **Fairview,** OH, FFA members at the end of school.



North Crawford of Gays Mills, WI, sponsored a dairy quiz bowl based on information from articles in *Hoard's Dairyman* magazine. Four area chapters, teams of four members, participated for trophies.

For 50 cents you could buy a balloon before the start of **Lake Mills,** IA, Chapter meeting. If you hit a moving target (the president, vice president or advisor) you got free pop! It worked to get the members to the meetings early and to raise a few dollars.

Roasted pork for the **Holton,** KS, 50th FFA banquet was provided by the local Alumni Affiliate.

News came in via the Ag Ed Network about the **Ruby Mountain,** NV, FFA open house in their vo-ag department for 200 parents and guests. Freshmen members made shish kabobs and served them to guests. Sophomores gave computer demonstrations. Juniors put up bulletin boards and seniors showed a video on futures marketing.

Over 200 pine trees were planted by **Miller City,** OH, FFA members for citizens in Palmer Township as windbreaks and for conservation.

New welcome sign is up outside **Penelope,** TX, thanks to the FFA.

Hunterdon Hills, NJ, Chapter held an essay contest for the eighth graders in feeder schools who will be sending students to their high school. Topic was "Why is Agriculture A Science?" *Kathleen Daly* won first and $25, *Tim Sweitzer* won second and $15.

Members of **Broome-Tioga** FFA in NY are organizing a dog show and have invited AKC members from their state and Pennsylvania. The chapter members also raise German Shepherd puppies to prepare them for the state police dog program.

Largest fish and biggest catch will get the prizes in the **Broken Bow,** NE, fishing contest.

Stratford, WI, made ice crem, pizza and butter with fourth graders to explain Food for America.

Upper Scioto Valley, OH, FFA planted 2,000 trees on the school farm. Trees came from the SCS office and will help hold the mucky soil from wind erosion.

Zillah, WA, Chapter's recreation committee sponsored the annual George Washington Farmers' Ball. Only FFA members and guests may attend.

The classroom was the cornfield when **Superior,** NE, members planted their corn test plot this spring. They put in 17 varieties and 35 different numbers contributed by local seed dealers.

Firemen, county emergency medical service staffers and the state fire marshall gave helpful and educational reports to **Oak Harbor,** OH, members about handling anhydrous ammonia and other ag chemicals.

Make a promise to yourself. For this upcoming school year, work on something extra, really "get into" FFA and send some news in to your FFA magazine. Doesn't have to be fancy or a super essay. Just readable! And about something that's newsy, of interest or unique.

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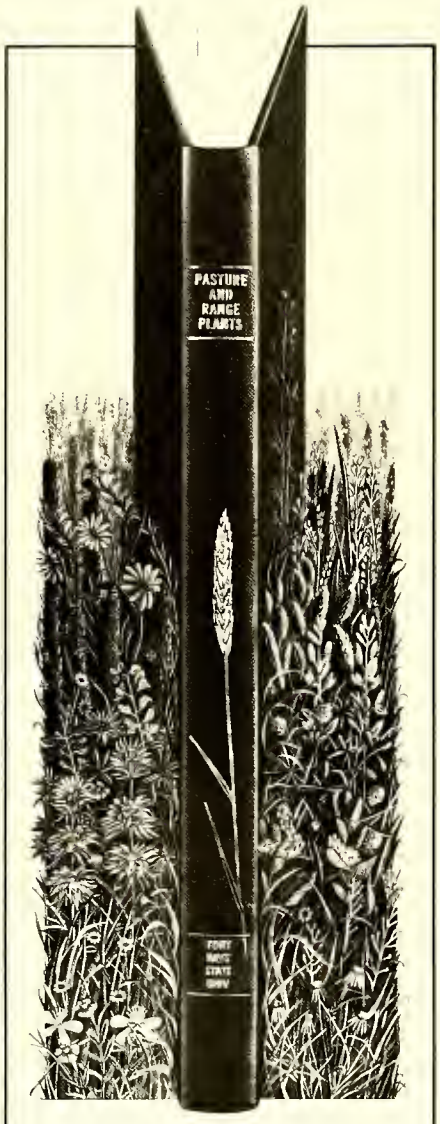

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Picking Up The Gavel

By Andrew Markwart

The national invitational parliamentary procedure contest is hosted by a single FFA chapter

THEY don't have to do it. But every November for the past nine years the Carthage, Missouri, FFA Chapter has hosted the National Invitational Parliamentary Procedure Contest.

There's no plaque presented at national convention for the winner. Nobody really makes a big fuss over it. And since it isn't an official National FFA contest, it doesn't receive special money to operate—other than the fundraisers Carthage puts on during the year. It is a classic example of an FFA chapter seeing a need and doing something about it.

It all started when Carthage won the Missouri state parliamentary procedure contest in 1978. Eager to test their skills against other state winners, the team was literally all dressed-up with nowhere to go. So they took matters into their own hands and invited the other state winners to Carthage for a showdown. The chapter timed the contest just days before the National FFA Convention so competing chapters could continue on for the festivities in Kansas City 140 miles to the north.

Of course Advisor Jim Honey and his chapter encountered their share of hurdles along the way. How would they get the word out to everyone? Where would the participants all stay once they arrived in Carthage? Probably the toughest was the hodge-podge of different rules used by states to govern the contest.

Friends Indeed

In nine years, a lot of those early bugs have been worked out. Contestants stayed in the homes of Carthage FFA members until last year when numbers got so large they had to reserve a local motel. Local business helped sponsor the event for eight years, and when financial hard times hit Carthage this past year, the Alumni came through as co-sponsors. Alumni members cooked and served the food at the final awards banquet.

The rules have been standardized and are printed in a brochure sent to state associations so every state winning team knows what to expect when they arrive in Carthage.

According to Advisor Honey, the contest has been rewarding for the Carthage Chapter and those that have attended. "Almost 100 chapters have participated in the parliamentary procedure contest since it started. We usually have about 12 teams competing every year, but we have had as many as 30 teams. It gets a lot of members and chapters from all over in our chapter, and we enjoy that. It's a grassroots competition."

Because of the size and time involved with the contest, Honey says he's not

Photos by Author

Jalayne Woodhead, Carthage's 1987 parliamentary procedure chairperson.

sure if the chapter will be able to continue hosting it, though he does admit "it would be hard to give up once we've started it."

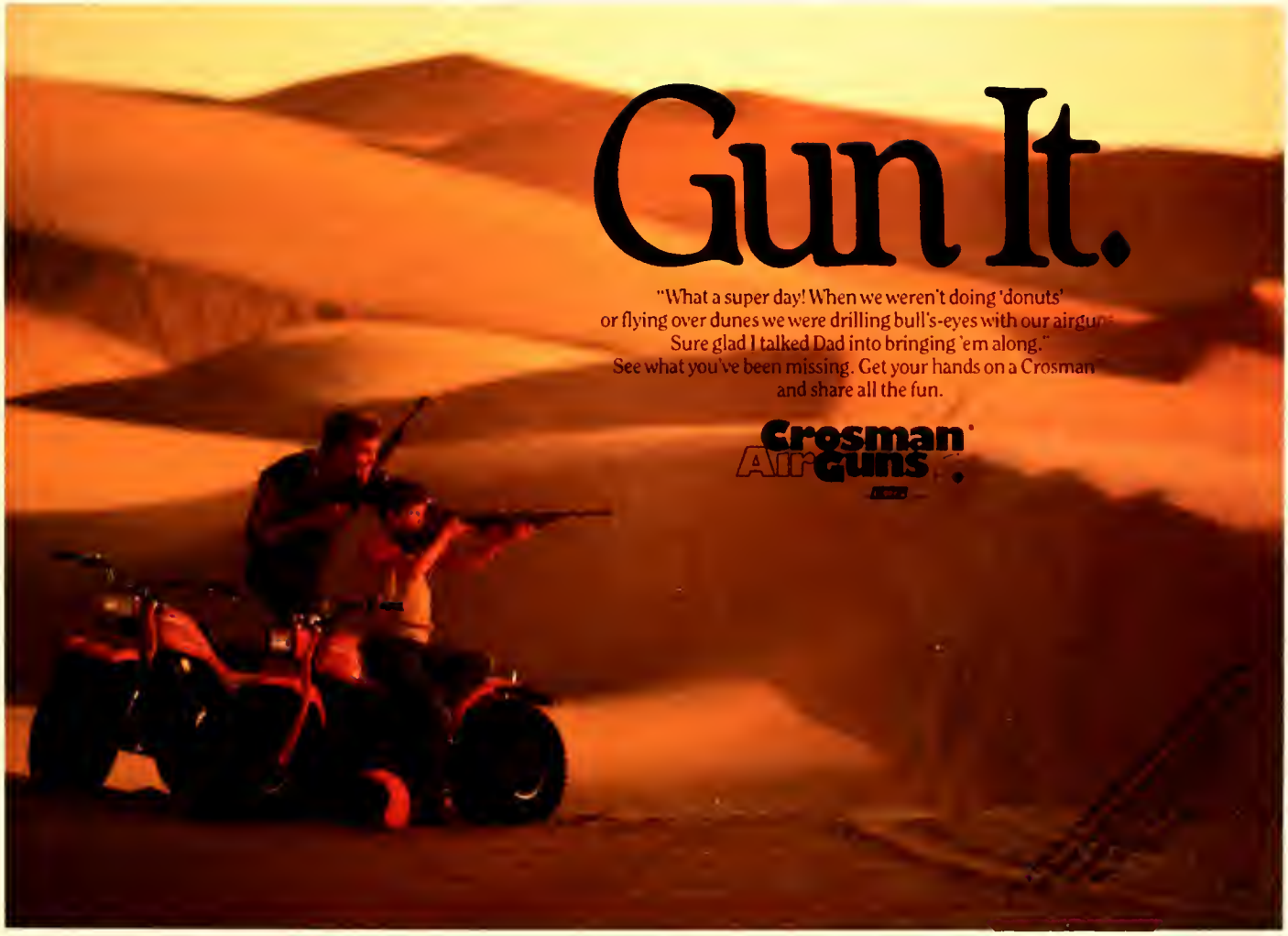
Debbie Powell, chapter president, says the contest is good for the chapter for a number of reasons. "It's a lot like Washington Conference Program in the sense that we get to meet other members from across the country. It's also great public relations for our chapter." The Plant City, Florida, FFA Chapter have brought their local TV news crew and newspaper reporters when they competed.

A number of chapters return each year as state winners. Besides Plant City, chapters such as James Wood, Virginia; Waverly, Nebraska; and last year's winner, White House, Tennessee, are no strangers to this restful southwest corner of Missouri. And no one leaves empty handed. Everyone who attends receives a certificate and winning teams get plaques.

In 1985 the National FFA Board of Directors considered the feasibility of adopting parliamentary procedure as a national contest, such as public speaking. After a lengthy study and survey of each state by an appointed committee, the board decided not to add the contest.

So again this fall, for the tenth year straight, state-winning parliamentary procedure teams from across the country will meet in Carthage to settle who is the very best. No fuss, no whoopla—just FFA leadership teams giving their best. Any discussion?

Meeting adjourned. •••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Water, Water Everywhere. But (Maybe) Not A Drop to Drink?

By Jack Pitzer

A worn out cliche which, unfortunately, may apply to 95 percent of rural America.

Dateline—Thursday, April 30, 1987—Ag Ed Network...Ground-water contamination is getting an increasing amount of attention from members of Congress. In Senate hearings Wednesday, one witness testified that even if farmers stopped using all chemical fertilizers and pesticides today, already serious contamination of the nation's precious ground-water supplies would continue to worsen.

THIS Ag Ed Network news report is just one of many examples of the growing attention being given ground water in agriculture.

Why all the publicity lately? How does it affect FFA members?

First off, ground water supplies almost all of the available fresh water in the United States and is the primary source of drinking water for 50 percent of the general population and 95 percent of the rural population! That's why the topic hits home; it's the water you drink!

What is ground water?

Many people think of ground water as a series of lakes and rivers flowing beneath the surface of the earth and are surprised to learn that ground water exists in permeable saturated zones of rock, sand or gravel called aquifers. According to Concern, Inc., these aquifers may cover only a few miles in overall area or they may extend over thousands of square miles—as does the Ogallala aquifer which reaches from South Dakota down to the plains of central Texas.

Most ground water originates as precipitation, percolates into the soil much as water fills a sponge, and moves from place to place along fractures in rock, through sand and gravel, or through channels in formations such as cavernous limestone.

Between irrigation and livestock usage, about two-thirds of the daily supply of ground water used in the U.S. is for agricultural activities. But agricultural activities have also introduced contaminants that threaten ground-water quality, limiting its usefulness as a source of drinking water and for other purposes.

Ground-water Contamination

Sometime ago, there was a lot of attention to water pollution control programs focused on protecting surface waters like pollution of a river from a specific source. Gound-water quality didn't get much attention because it was assumed pollutants would be degraded or cleansed from the water by the natural filtering action of the soil. It was not realized until the late 1970s that ground water was being polluted by nondegrading chemicals and not being removed by soil filtration.

With observed improvements in surface water quality and in-place programs to control point sources of pollution, the focus of water pollution control in the United States during the 1980s has shifted to managing the more difficult concern—ground water. That's why all the talk in the news.

In 1985, 38 states reported that agricultural activity was a known or suspected source of ground-water contamination within their borders according to a Library of Congress research report by analyst Donald Feliciano. The most commonly found or suspected groundwater pollutants in the states tended to be from agricultural sources: 38 reported nitrates (fertilizers), 24 reported bacteria (animal wastes), and 32 reported pesticides (herbicides and insecticides). The most affected group is the rural population, which obtains its drinking water from ground water that is for the most part untreated prior to consumption.

Ground-water contamination as a result of agriculture can occur in several ways. Ag chemical pollution has resulted from spills, improper storage, backflushing down the well after adding agrichemicals to irrigation water, and other accidents. These can be identified and prevented by prudent safeguards.

But normally accepted large-scale agricultural practices such as spreading fertilizer or spraying of pesticides also can cause ground-water contamination. The problem in these situations is the difficulty in being able to determine the exact source of contamination.

Variations in general agricultural practices, together with local soil, ground water, and climatic conditions affect the likelihood of ground-water contamination.

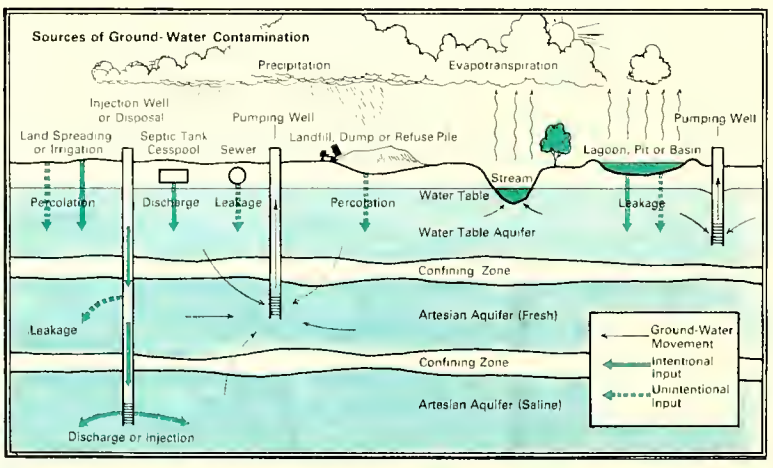
What Threat Do Agricultural Practices Present To Underground Water?

The actual threat of agricultural activities to ground-water quality is unknown, although the growing number of discovered incidents of ground-water contamination involving agricultural activities indicates a problem of potentially significant proportions.

The EPA is conducting a nationwide survey of pesticides in drinking-water wells in order to provide the first national picture of the extent of agricultural chemicals in drinking-water wells. This three-year survey will analyze samples from approximately 1,500 drinking-water wells across the country, including about 750 domestic wells in largely rural areas and about 500 community wells.

Results from the National Pesticide Survey will provide the first accurate, statistical estimates of the extent of pesticide contamination of drinking-water wells. The results are also expected to improve our understanding of the rela-

(Continued on Page 48)



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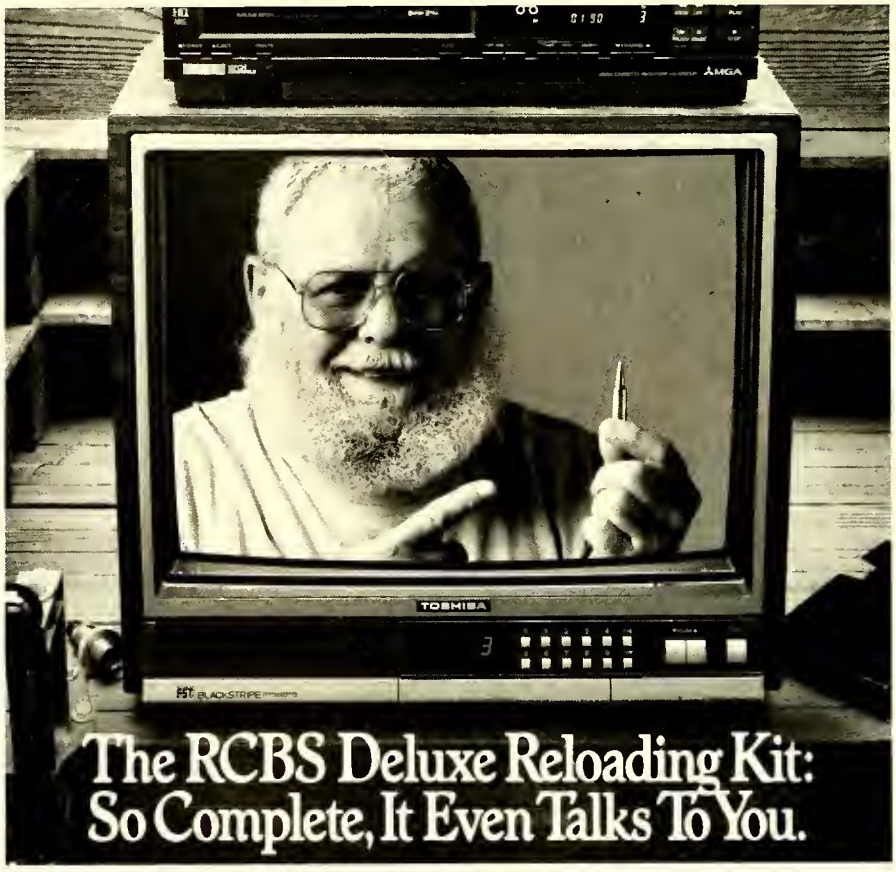

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Ground Water

(Continued from Page 46)

tionships between pesticide contamination, pesticide usage patterns and the vulnerability of ground water to pollution in different areas of the country.

Several large agricultural states who have been doing monitoring have found startling results; in Minnesota, 45 percent of the domestic wells tested are contaminated and in Iowa, 20 percent of the community system wells tested are contaminated.

It is unlikely that ground-water contamination from agrichemicals and microbes can ever be eliminated; however, experts believe that concentrated management efforts can prevent or minimize such contamination.

If the contamination is at a level of health concern, more monitoring is a must, plus the application of treatment technology for the water. This advice is usually available from county and/or state health department officials.

A key approach to protecting ground-water quality, according to experts, is to prevent it from happening in the first place. Experience shows that it is usually much cheaper to prevent ground-water contamination from occurring, than it is to clean up contaminated ground water. For agriculture, an important element of such prevention is to focus attention on the appropriate use of fertilizers and pesticides, and to educate the agricultural community on its critical role in protecting the nation's ground water. •••

This article was written in cooperation with Jerry Kotas, director of the EPA National Pesticide Survey.

Chapter Action

It's hard to imagine an FFA chapter sitting idly by and not getting involved in the ground-water situation locally.

There are many things a chapter can do, especially as part of their BOAC work, to at least create awareness for potential ground-water problems.

A good "idea booklet" is available to help student leaders. Send for "Ground Water: A Community Action Guide." It costs $3 for one copy and $1 for additional copies. Send request to Concern, Inc., 1794 Columbia Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

Concern, Inc. is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, founded in 1970, that provides environmental information to individuals and groups and encourages them to act in their communities.

What's New

A Combining the power of a garden tractor, with the compact size of a lawn tractor, the Honda RT 5000 is capable of performing outdoor chores year-round. Front and rear PTOs, along with front and rear hydraulics, accommodates a variety of optional attachments. It features a standard three-point category "O" hitch, allowing it to accommodate other attachments on the market.

A

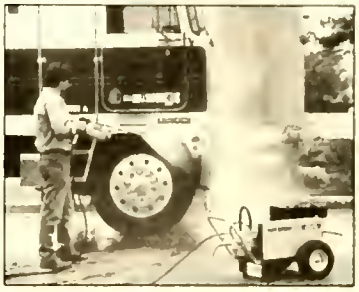
B Universal's 6-volt Model 6000 Fence Controller with the optional Solar Conversion Kit, is warranted for 12 months, even against lightning damage. Company spokesmen project the optional Solar Conversion Kit will pay for itself in one pasture season.

B

C Available from Eaton Corporation, Controls Division, the Model 500 portable moisture tester electronically determines and displays any type of grain's moisture content. Weighing less than a pound and measuring 6"x3"x2", it can be used to take samples on the spot from any part of a field. Automatic temperature correction assures fast and repeatable readings from the liquid crystal display.

C

D



D Water power at your command from John Deere's new gas-powered high-pressure washer. The 11-hp model 225G develops 2500 psi for extra heavy-duty cleaning jobs. A moderate 5 gpm rate allows it to be used in remote areas with a less abundant supply of water. A wet sandblast attachment is available for removing graffiti, stripping epoxy and lacquer, and clearing rust. A chemical application attachment is available, too.

E John Deere's new 55-series utility tractors are designed for high reliability, greater fuel economy, increased comfort and efficiency and more convenient servicing. There are five agricultural tractors, the 2155 (45 hp), 2355 (55 hp), 2555 (65 hp), 2755 (75 hp) and 2955 (85 hp). A line of four specialty tractors includes the 2355N (55 hp) and 2855N (80 hp) compact models designed especially for orchard and vineyard operations and the 2755 (75 hp) and 2955 (85 hp) high clearance models for use in other specialty crops.

E

F

F Designed to measure the flow rate of individual sprayer nozzles, the McKenzie Calibrator helps you find the nozzle that is costing you additional chemical expense and lost yields.

G The 1987 Ford Ranger Regular Cab 4x4 features excellent ride quality provided by twin traction-beam suspension in a new "High Rider" model that is 1.5 inches higher than the standard Ranger 4x4. The High Rider STX compact pickup is equipped with a multiple-port electronic fuel injected engine.

H This Case IH Model 3640 round baler produces 4-foot-wide bales so that two bales can be conveniently placed side-by-side in trucks. The fixed chamber design on both the Models 3640 and 3440 ensures that bales develop a very dense, protective outer shell.

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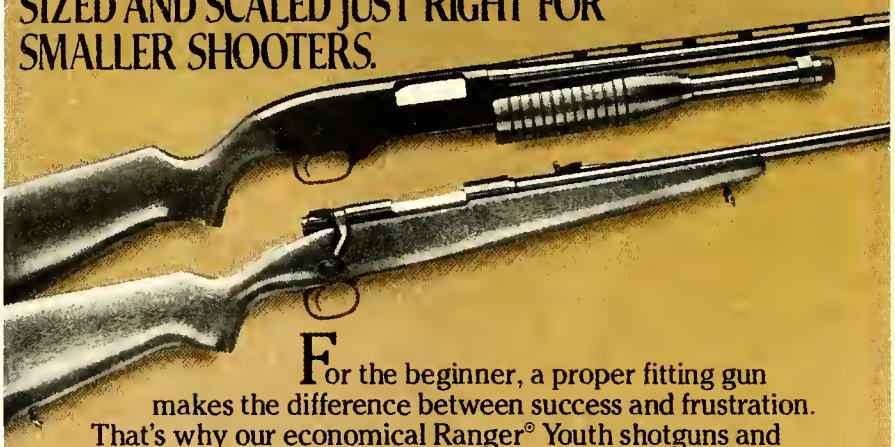

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By Ferris Weddle

WHILE federal and state officials in varied departments and agencies grapple with the human problems of illegal aliens and refugees, fish and wildlife agencies are waging a war against illegal aliens wearing feathers, fur, fins or just plain hide. Increasingly, the policy is strictly "Closed Door" to numerous species of non-native fish and wildlife. This includes many that were once available through pet dealers.

Following the lead of such states as California and Florida, Nevada has become one of the latest states to ban the importation and possession of a long list of fish, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Importation permits are required for anyone bringing in exotics including scientists involved in research. The Nevada Department of Wildlife also controls the movement of any species from one part of the state to another or from one body of water to another. Native species, particularly fish, aren't exempt either—a regulation that is also in effect in the majority of the western states and elsewhere in the nation.

One of the exotics on the Nevada list is the African clawed frog which has proved to be a pest in several areas of California. Biologists don't believe this exotic could become a pest in the wilds of Nevada, but they aren't taking any chances. The Washington Department of Game feels the same way. A few years ago, the department added the five-inch frog to the state's "Not Wanted" list which also includes the walking catfish, grass carp and the mongoose among other species.

Prior to the new regulations, pet dealers had been doing a fairly lucrative business in the clawed frogs, with one wholesaler selling from 500 to 1,000 of the frogs per month to retailers who got up to $2.75 each for the creatures.

All of the states prohibit the release of any kind of exotic into the wilds, but enforcing the regulation is another matter. This is especially true for small species. Larger animals are more easily detected as was the case with the wild boar found in two northern Puget Sound counties a few years ago by Washington Game Department biologists. Wild boar, whether the European kind or domestic breeds gone wild, are not among the state's 640 recognized species of wildlife natives.

Wild boar have been deliberately or accidentally established in California and other western states as well as states east of the Mississippi River. The introduc-

Closing the Door on Exotics

tions have proved detrimental to native wildlife and livestock in many regions. The spread of diseases, such as brucellosis, is always a possibility. Too, the wild pigs eat the foodstuff needed by native species and domestic stock. They destroy seedlings in reforestation projects, too.

A male Barbary sheep.

State and federal wildlife agencies are particularly wary of the introduction of exotic fish because fish are extremely difficult to control if they prove adaptable. On the list of most states is the unique walking catfish which is becoming a nuisance in parts of Florida, California and other southern states. Various species of carp, including the grass carp, are also a "No-No," since we have a good example in the larger species of carp which have shown a remarkable adaptability throughout the country.

Exotic birds bring wariness, too. We have only to remember the English sparrow and the starling which have become pests over most of the nation. On the other hand, certain upland gamebird species have proved to be assets, with the pheasant leading the way, along with the chukar and Hungarian partridges. Presently, there is concern in California, Florida and Texas about exotic parakeets, or "budgies," which have become escapees or have been deliberately set free. The concern extends to other southern states with the climate and habitat that might suit the tropical birds. Agriculturists in particular are troubled by these exotics which can become destructive pests for fruits and other crops.

The introduction of large game mammals by New Mexico over the years has not met with the universal approval of other western states. So far, however, such exotics as the Barbary sheep, gemsbok (oryx) and the Persian and Siberian Ibex haven't presented any problems in the state. A few game mammals have been introduced into parts of Texas too, but the majority of them are on private ranches.

Habitat for wildlife and fish becomes more critical each year for the native species and the already established aliens. It appears only logical—and wise—to close the doors to any more aliens that might one day boomerang. •••

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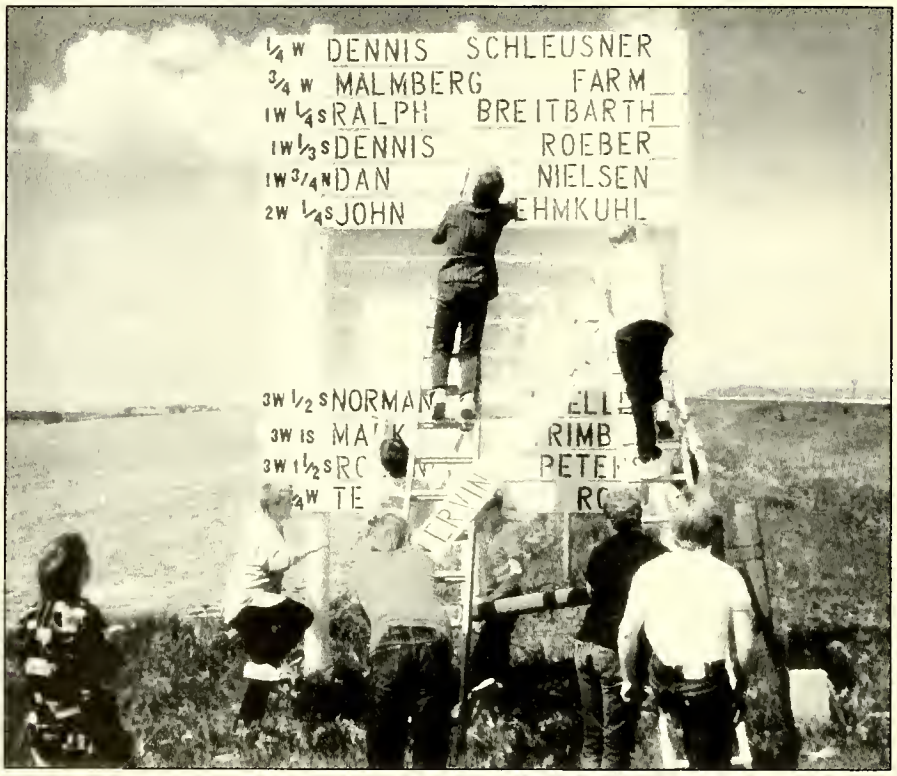

Two Lefts After the Big Oak By The Stream

Working to help build the community the Pender, Nebraska, Chapter has completely redone a farm direction sign. The chapter built the sign and keeps it up to date to explain to motorists how the find specific farms. *(Bonita Lederer, Reporter)*

Agri-Sounds

Pigs squealing, roosters crowing, kids laughing and tractors starting were some of the sounds heard in the Kuna, Idaho, vo-ag department during a week in May when over 4,700 elementary school children visited the Kuna Agricultural Exposition.

The young students—kindergarten through third grade—came from primarily urban population centers which included Boise, Nampa, Meridian and Kuna.

The main objectives of the Agricultural Exposition identified by the Kuna FFA members included giving the visitors the opportunity to experience a little bit of agricultural life, letting the youngsters learn how food and fiber are produced and helping the children have fun.

Kuna FFA started five months ago planning—contacting various elementary schools and preparing displays.

Once the kids arrived at Kuna for their field trip, they were greeted with a wide array of sights, sounds and smells.

A typical tour for a youngster lasted 2-1/2 hours. It included a short hayride; a movie explaining where the ingredients of a cheeseburger come from; a slide presentation on the products made from wheat; a serving of ice cream and cheese; a question-and-answer period via the computer; a chance to play with motorized toy tractors; and close examination of dairy cattle, sheep, pigs, dairy goats, trout, beef cattle, llama, horses, poultry, rabbits, large machinery and a crops display.

Mature and baby animals were provided for viewing by the students. Care was taken so the youngsters could touch, pet or hold the animals. Two tours were held each day of the exposition with an average of 500-plus children in attendance for each tour. Accommodating this mass of kids, FFA member tour guides were assigned to groups of about 25 students.

The elementary school children and their teachers were not the only ones that gained in knowledge because of the agricultural exposition. FFA members learned a great deal. They had to do research to construct educational posters for the exhibit. All the FFA members needed to diversify their knowledge about agriculture so they could be ready to field questions from the visitors. But mostly, the FFA members grew in their organizational and communicative skills.

Tremendous support was provided to the Kuna FFA Chapter from several individuals and companies. Among these were Home Dairies, Swiss Village Cheese, Nampa International Equipment, Idaho Wheat Commission, area farmers, Western Idaho Fair Board and the Idaho Farm Bureau.

Bureau of Land Management Award Goes to Chapter

The Goddard Chapter of Roswell, New Mexico, was awarded a national Bureau of Land Management Volunteerism award at the annual parent-member banquet held in April.

The award was presented by Mr. Francis Cherry of Roswell who is the district manager of the Bureau of Land Management for southeastern New Mexico. The Bureau of Land Management award is presented to individuals or groups who have made outstanding volunteer contributions.

As a part of the Goddard Chapter's BOAC program from 1984 through 1986 the chapter assisted the B.L.M. staff in constructing erosion control structures on public lands managed by federal agencies. Local FFA members also constructed heavy-duty picnic tables for use in parks. As a result of this cooperaton between the FFA and the Bureau of Land Management, the chapter earned gold emblem BOAC awards.

This past year the Bureau of Land Management presented 62 national volunteerism awards across the country with the first two awards to schools.

Roy's Own Cap

Frederick County Vo-Tech FFA in Maryland got involved in the dedication of a new Roy Rogers' restaurant in their area and presented an FFA cap to Roy Rogers who was on hand for the opening.

Good Neighbors

In March, the Mohawk, Pennsylvania, Chapter sent a work group to the International Learning and Livestock Center operated by Heifer Project International.

Four seniors (Jim Bingham, Pat Davis, Eric Foster and Karen Leslie) and three juniors (Bill Shiderly, Daryl Musser and Loretta Boren) made up the crew. They were accompanied by their advisor Mr. Cliff Wallace, his wife and infant daughter, and his brother Jim Wallace.

The Mohawk group drove a school van to Perryville, Arkansas, for the work experience.

The ranch is operated year-round by volunteers, most of them in the summer, to help construct things and do odd jobs. The odd jobs include anything from welding a corral to stacking hay to building a chicken house. There are two main purposes of the Learning Center.

One is to run a self-sufficient ranch. At the present it is supported by over 600 head of registered Brangus cattle. It also is supported by selling offspring from goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits and soon chickens which are also raised at the ranch. Rarely are animals shipped from the Arkansas ranch to other parts of the world. Instead, research is conducted to see which ones would be more efficient and best suited for different parts of the world.

The other reason for the Learning Center is to train people from all over the world. It is easier to have people come to the center and teach them how to raise the animals. This makes for a good learning environment because the facilities are there, opposed to doing it in a native country where learning would have to be more rushed. Also, in the Learning Center there is a conference room and cafeteria. Very comfortable and convenient lodging are also made available to the people representing foreign countries.

During the Mohawk FFA's stay at the center they performed various jobs. Feeding the livestock and caring for sick animals were everyday chores for Pat Davis and Loretta Boren.

The remaining students and advisors were split up each day for different jobs. Jim Bingham, Eric Foster, Daryl Musser and Bill Shiderly helped load and unload over 700 bales of straw brought from a nearby farm. Cliff Wallace, Karen Leslie and Janet Wallace rebuilt rabbit cages onto rollers for easier cleanup and Jim Wallace worked with other volunteers in rebuilding a shed for an area FFA project of raising chickens.

The work crew of FFA'ers were, left to right, Eric Foster, Bill Shiderly, Karen Leslie, Pat Davis, Jim Bingham, Daryl Musser and Loretta Boren.

An interesting project that each student had a chance to try was making bricks. The bricks were made of eight parts topsoil, three parts sand and two parts cement. This dry mix was then packed together in a manual press, much like the ones used in Guatemala. They are then set out in the sun under plastic for 20 to 30 days to harden. Over 1,000 bricks are needed to build an example Guatemalan hut on the ranch. The group set a record by making 167 bricks in one day. *(Bill Shiderly, President)*

A New Angle to An Old Livestock SOEP

In an attempt to improve the vocational agri-science program at Mead High School in Spokane, Washington, it was decided to put an emphasis on members' projects. Among the students interested in improving their projects, eight students had a special interest in beef cattle. Although these students wanted to raise one or two steers, funds to do so were limited.

Seeing that the students possessed a genuine desire, Bob Foster, meats manager of Tidyman's Food Stores, came up with a new concept. He donated $1,200 to the students in return for the students researching the beef industry. Because Tidyman's specialized in Limousin beef, the students' only requirement was that the steers must be at least 1 2 Limousin.

After searching for the right quality of Limousin steers, Advisor Williams found nine steers at Highview Ranch in Enterprise, Oregon. These steers ranged from 1 2 to 3 4 Limousin and had tremendous potential for all being future champions.

The new owners of these steers wanted to not only raise and show the steers but

(Continued on Page 54)

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wanted to go about it in a new and innovative manner. Instead of just learning about the steers, they planned to thoroughly research the beef industry and become familiar with it. Three major objectives were developed to provide information for the research project.

The students wanted to determine today's consumer preference regarding the purchase of retail beef in relation to the quality and price of the product. To do this, they developed a survey composed of questions about the consumer's likes and dislikes concerning beef. After conducting the survey at several local food stores, the students compiled the information and plan on displaying their findings at upcoming beef shows.

Another objective was to investigate the nutritional value of beef products and how they relate to the USDA-recommended daily allowances. A "Nutri-Facts" committee was appointed to do necessary research and upon completion will develop a brochure containing the information. Also, an analysis of the Limousin steers raised will also be done following the Junior Livestock Show in May.

The final objective was to evaluate major beef breeds concerning consumer preference in the areas of quality and cutability. Members of the Beef Breed Research Committee have taken on the task of comparing major beef breeds such as Hereford, Angus and Simmental. Their findings will also be included in the brochure and displays.

Hopefully, by being involved in this research project, students will have a better understanding of the meat they eat and an insight into the beef industry as a whole. Many opportunities are presented to students in a project such as this. Some may find jobs through their new contacts with business people and maybe even become interested in a career dealing with the beef industry.

A Well-Rounded Meal

The Montana FFA officers conducted a special event for National Ag Day. They assisted the Montana Department of Agriculture and farm commodity groups by serving a luncheon to Montana legislators in the rotunda of the state capital.

The lunch consisted of Montana-grown products to focus attention on the low prices farmers receive for their products. Legislators were asked to pay 16 cents for lunch, representing the amount the farmer receives. The lunch had an approximate value of $5.

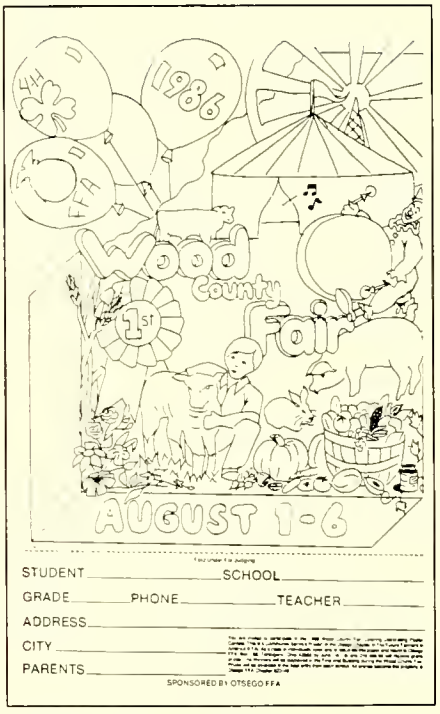
The FFA provided FFA napkins and cups. In addition, the FFA officers set up an FFA display at the luncheon and handed out FFA pencils and "I support FFA" buttons to legislators.

Pretty Fair Coloring

The Otsego, Ohio, FFA Chapter conducts a county fair poster coloring contest among 1,200 fourth graders in our county each year in May.

All school winning posters are laminated and placed on display in the Fine Arts department at the fair. The original line drawing was done by chapter officer Joyce Scott.

Here's the poster Joyce designed and from which the chapter had 11x17-inch posters printed.



Senior Celebrity

Chuck Wilson, a Bangor senior enrolled in agricultural mechanics at the Van Buren Skills Center in Lawrence, Michigan, was selected by the State Advisory Council for Vocational Education as a recipient of the Michigan Outstanding Senior in Vocational Education Award. The selection was based on academic and vocational performance, school activities and community service.

Chuck competed against other vocational seniors in a seven-county region. Having won at the regional level, his credentials were submitted to the state to compete against vocational seniors at that level.

In FFA he has been chapter historian and is currently president. Plus he was a delegate to the state and national conventions, Washington Conference Program and served as leadership committee chairperson.

Ride On

The Clint, Texas, FFA held their second annual roping contest at the Robinson's Arena in May.

Over 662 teams participated in such events as barrel racing, goat roping, team roping and a cutting horse competition. For the smaller children there was a goat chasing with the winner receiving a cash prize. Three sets of spurs and ten beautiful buckles were donated by local merchants as prizes for the senior winners.

With all this excitement people were bound to get hungry so the FFA set up their food booth selling delicious barbeque burritos, candy and chips.

Money made from this event will be used to help with many chapter activities and trips. All the members and parents worked together to conduct the event. *(Dee Ledbetter)*

Poster Project

The Emmetsburg, Iowa, Chapter designed and printed a hardboard safety poster as part of their safety program.

We had 2,800 printed and sent one poster to one chapter in each state and then sent the rest to all the chapters in Iowa.

There were four versions printed, each with a different slogan and photo. Each version was jointly sponsored by the FFA and a different Emmetsburg company.

Slogans were "Farm Chemicals Can Kill...Follow Label Instructions," "I Never Did Believe In Eye Protection... Until Now," "Safety Guards Guard Life and Limb; Never Let Your Guard Down" and "This Farmer Was In Such A Hurry He Got All Wound Up In His Work."

TV Interviewers

Indiana FFA members recently participated in a production of "AG-U.S.A.," the public service TV series aimed at telling the story of American agriculture. The show, titled "Animal Nutrition," was produced at WRTV in Indianapolis.

The half-hour show was taped in three 9-minute segments. Each segment highlighted discussion with one of the animal

(Continued on Page 56)

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FFA In Action

scientists, who answered questions posed by the Indiana FFA members.

Members appearing on the show, left to right, were, front row; Scott Stump, Tim Favourite, Donna Berry, Ronald Gick; back row, Nancy Coulson, Karl Weiss and Edward Sheldon.

The FFA members appeared on the show along with three animal scientists—Dr. Gary D. Potter, Texas A&M University; Dr. J. D. Garlich, North Carolina State University; and Dr. Rendle Cornwell, Pfizer, Inc.—who were in Indianapolis to speak at the 35th Annual Pfizer Research Conference.

Topics discussed included human health concerns and the food supply, the use of confinement facilities in poultry production and the special nutritional needs of race horses.

Biggest and Best

Stuttgart, Arkansas, Alumni helps the Stuttgart High School FFA Chapter in many little ways—and one big one.

Each year, the FFA Alumni sponsor a farm equipment auction as a fund-raiser for the local FFA.

The first year, the FFA auction raised about $1,200. The second year, proceeds were down a little. This year's final tally is not yet in, but Jeff Tennant, president of the FFA Alumni, said he expects the proceeds to be the largest yet. "We had more gross sales of machinery and we had bigger items," Tennant said.

The FFA uses the money primarily for judging trips and other projects which require travel. "We've batted around the idea of establishing a scholarship fund," he added, "but we haven't done it yet."

Planning for the auction begins about six months in advance. Gene Vail chairs the auction committee and the entire project "is a group effort," Tennant said. "It's worthwhile and we enjoy doing it," he added.

Cooking hamburgers and seving chili for farmers attending the third annual FFA Alumni farm equipment auction kept FFA members and instructors busy meeting the demand.

The Wild Flowers At School

The Genoa, Ohio, Chapter is establishing a wild flower preserve in a small woodlot adjacent to the high school.

The purpose is to help maintain and broaden the population of wild plants and to provide a training site for contests.

Some of the flowers transplanted are Jack-in-the-Pulpit, May Apple, Wild Violets, Swamp Buttercup and Wild Geraniums. The team is still looking for Trillium, Periwinkle, False Solomon's Seal, Anemone, Yellow Violet, Wild Lupine and Marsh Marigolds. *(Tracy Brown, Reporter)*

Student Teachers

The Springdale, Arkansas, FFA Chapter has expanded its Food for America program. Last year the program was conducted at only one elementary school. This year the Food for America program was held at all eight elementary schools in Springdale's public school system.

Five officers or members are assigned to each school. The group was in charge of contacting the principal at the appropriate school to set up appointments to teach three one-hour courses on agriculture.

The first of these courses involved a cheeseburger. The visiting FFA members explained the agricultural origin of the ingredients of a cheeseburger. The third-graders were given a picture and a piece of a cheeseburger.

The second lesson was similar to the first, but focused on a pizza. The agriculture involved in producing the pizza's ingredients was reviewed and the students were given pizza to eat and an informative handout.

The importance of agriculture was the topic of the third lesson. A handout with

Word Contest Results

Last issue, FFA in Action editors extended a challenge to any readers who could top the 206 words made out of "agriculture." The original list came from Gays Mills, Wisconsin, FFA. (See page 34 in the June-July issue.)

The best entry was 295 words from Brenda Swanson who used names of places and of people.

It was fun for us too, but we must confess—no one looked up the words. We trust you!

An FFA cap is on the way to Brenda of the St. Croix Falls, Minnesota, Chapter.

a map of the United States was given to the third-graders. They were taught where the United States and Arkansas rank in various areas of agricultural production and the reasons for their ranking. During this lesson they also were given general information about FFA.

The program has been a great success! The principals and teachers of the elementary schools we visited have been very cooperative. The students have shown their appreciation by sending thank you letters to FFA. *(Shannon Guinn, Reporter)*

Camouflage Learning

Through the auspices of the New Hampshire National Guard, the students in the Coe-Brown Northwood Academy in New Hampshire, received training and basic experience in the operation of a number of pieces of light construction and earth moving equipment.

The program was set up by Coe-Brown agriculture instructor Paul Davis and Major Arvid Wiggin of the New Hampshire National Guard. The students in the program spent several days of class and lab time learning about, and actually operating, pieces of equipment owned by the National Guard.

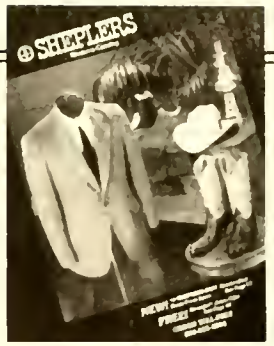
As part of the landscape management program in vo-ag, students learned to operate farm tractors equipped with front-end loaders, logging winches and backhoes. While these pieces of equipment provided valuable experiences, there was still a gap between the training the students had received and the actual experiences needed to enter the upper levels of the landscaping trade.

The students began the new experience at the New Hampshire Military Reservation in Concord with a tour of the facility and a presentation about the role of the National Guard repair facility, including its maintenance plans for all types of machines from trucks and helicopters to staff cars and weapon systems.

The program then moved to another site where the buildings and grounds were undergoing extensive renovation. There were a number of pieces of construction equipment on site, as well as several qualified guard members to act as instructors.

Senior Paul Osborn oprates an industrial payloader during the training program.

The landscape course was run in conjunction with the New Hampshire National Guard. Shown with the National Guard's 10,000-pound forklift are guard members Sergeant John Schlang and Warrant Officer Tom Lapierre and the members of the class; (left to right as faces appear) Tim Colby, Mike Hodgdon, Phil St. Clair, John O'Gara, Carl Hartford (in cab), Paul Osborn, Vince Bane, Andy Kelley and Steve Doucet.



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Joke Page

A mother sardine and her baby were out swimming. *"Come quickly, Mother, and see the big monster,"* the baby yelled.

"Show me where it is," his mother replied.

The little sardine led his mother to a submarine. *"Don't be frightened,"* his mother said, *"it's only a can of people."*

Larry Frey
Postville, Iowa

"Doc, could you turn off that radio?" asked the nervous man in the dentist's chair waiting to have a tooth extracted.

"I thought a little band music would cheer you up," the dentist said.

"But they're playing 'The Yanks are Coming,'" the man retorted.

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

A youngster strayed away from his parents at the zoo and got lost. A policeman found him in tears and asked *"What's your father like?"*

"Baseball and golf," replied the boy.

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

Teacher: *"Sam, please use the word 'budget' in a sentence."*

Sam: *"My dad told me to carry his suitcase, but I could hardly budget."*

John Smith
Sturgis, Mississippi

The theater usher rushed over to a groaning man lying on two seats and shook him. *"You can occupy only one seat at a time,"* the usher said. *"And stop moaning, you're disturbing others."*

When the man wouldn't budge and kept right on moaning, the usher became livid. *"What's the matter with you? Where are your manners? Where did you come from?"*

Between moans, the man replied, *"The...the balcony."*

Kevin Rawson
Murraysville, West Viginia

A dog limped his way into a saloon and sat down. The bartender asked, *"What can I get you?"*

"Nothing, I am just looking for the man who shot my paw."

Daniel Zeimet
Deerfield, Wisconsin

A man asked his wife what she wanted for her birthday. *"Make it something hard to break, like a $1,000 bill."*

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

A tourist in Alabama saw a large sign at a gasoline station that read *"State Line Two Miles Ahead. Last chance for 98-cent gas."* He pulled in and had his tank filled.

"By the way, how much is gas over there?" he asked as the attendant was handing him his change.

"Ninety cents!"

John Hire
Wanette, Oklahoma

The Coast Guard received a mayday message: *"Help! We're in the water!"*

"Capsize?" the radio operator asked.

After a long silence, the voice answered, *"Six and seven-eights."*

Roxanne Lane
New Sharon, Iowa

Dawn and Teresa were walking through the museum and stopped in front of a mummy case. The label read *"2453 B.C."*

Dawn whispered, *"What does 2453 B.C. mean?"*

"I don't know," Teresa said, *"Maybe the license on the car that hit him."*

Mike Caddell
Milford, Texas

"Why do you insist on calling this our annual company picnic?"

Larry: *"Do you have a diary?"*
Lulu: *"As a matter of fact, I do."*
Larry: *"Do you have any steamy stuff about me in there?"*
Lulu: *"It's a diary, not a joke book!"*

Lori Osterloh
Minster, Ohio

Ronnie: *"I've changed my mind."*
Lonnie: *"New one work any better?"*

Kathy Rousey
Randleman, North Carolina

Charlie, the Greenhand

"I suppose this ruins my chance of borrowing the car tonight."

NOTICE: The National FUTURE FARMER *will pay $5.00 for each joke selected for this page. Jokes must be addressed to The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, LA 22309, or via Stargram on the Ag Ed Network to FF100A. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.*

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